VALENTINE'S DAY EDITION: Spreading the love

NIAGARA NEWS

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Valentine's Day: Express your love

— Valentine's photo spread, Pg. 12 & 13

Photo by Ryan McLaughlin

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IN THE CITY

United Way 'comfortably over' $1-million goal

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

The United Way of South Niagara has a million reasons to smile about its 2000 campaign.

It's more than a million, actually.

"We were comfortably over (our $1-million goal)," says Sharon Svob, campaign and marketing director of the United Way of South Niagara. "Ten or twenty thousand over."

The Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre and the Niagara Victim's Crisis Support Service are two new additions to the 26 agencies benefiting from the United Way of South Niagara.

"We're able to add those two agencies because of the increased dollars this year," says Svob. "It's pretty hard to add something crucial to the community when you're already supporting needed services, so having increased these dollars allowed us to do this."

Frank Adamson, last year's campaign chair, will be succeeded by Murray Thorimbert, director of retail initiatives for Canadian Tire Acceptance Ltd.

"He's got a lot of experience with the United Way," says Jill Cappa, executive director of United Way of South Niagara. "He was a past president and board member with United Way of Ajax/Pickering. He was a past campaign chair for the United Way of York Region."

"Half of the cabinet for (the 2001 campaign) has been recruited. We went through the empty positions and brainstormed who could fill positions, who we would approach," says Svob.

Now that the 2000 campaign is finished, the United Way of South Niagara is "finishing up financial things," says Svob. "We're preparing for an annual meeting that gives us the whole financial picture for last year's campaign, and there will be small awards for companies whose campaigns are just finishing up. So the annual meeting will have those two aspects, the annual process as well as volunteer recognition."

The annual meeting will take place on March 7, though Svob says a location has yet to be confirmed.

Svob says brainstorming for the 2001 campaign began in December. "It starts with looking at what happened last year. We look at and evaluate how the campaign went, what we'd like to keep, what we'd like to change. We've got the people who were involved to say, hey, this worked, this didn't, we could've done this, we could've done that."

"It's very fresh in your mind," says Cappa.

"And as people come on, they bring their new ideas and expertise," says Svob.

Was anything in the 2000 campaign not as successful as Cappa and Svob had hoped?

"There's always things," says Cappa. "The jail and bail event was very successful financially, yet we didn't have enough volunteers to run the event itself or we heard comments that if we'd had more people it would've been more efficient."

"The (campaign) kickoff was cold," says Svob, "so we'll want to warm it up. We did trainings this year, we want to do more."

Trainings involve "going in and doing an information session with the volunteers who will be working with the campaign and just give them the background and a few tips to make them more comfortable."

Jill Cappa (left), executive director, and Sharon Svob, campaign and marketing director, in the United Way of South Niagara office in Welland's Seaway Mall.

Photo by Kevin Hartford

"We share the facts on what we do here," says Cappa. "A lot of the people are like, 'I didn't know you did that.' So it's a real eye-opener. Then the volunteers can help explain what the United Way really is when they go back to their workplace and get rid of the myths."

Svob says the myths include "that we send money to Toronto and nothing stays local."

"Which is the opposite," says Cappa. "All the money that's directed here, stays here. The only way it leaves is if you say, 'I live in St. Catharines and I want it to go to St. Catharines' or whatever community. They don't realize how many programs we support or how many agencies, how long we've been around, or that there's four United Ways in the region."

The other three United Ways are in St. Catharines, Niagara Falls and Greater Fort Erie.

Svob says the United Way of South Niagara will be adding new positions to its cabinet, including a prospecting chair, "someone to research and look into some new accounts that we haven't approached in the past."

"We're looking at Niagara College," says Cappa. "If they have a marketing program, maybe a student would like to do the research. We want someone to research some companies, let us know which are the best companies, which companies we should be approaching if we want to add something to the campaigns. Also, maybe, researching the companies we're currently dealing with."

"So if there's a marketing student looking for an interesting project, we've got one," says Svob.

As for the future of the 2001 campaign, Cappa cites the St. Thomas United Way's "a million and one reasons" campaign as an inspiration. "We're playing around with that as a goal," she says. "So we might just go with a million and one (dollars). We can't go under a million, though, and that's a huge challenge. The team right now looks like they're all set and ready to go, and they're a dynamic group of people. They're just wonderful."

Welland Winter Carnival festivities crown new queen

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

The new queen has been crowned.

Eight Welland teens between the ages of 17 and 19 competed for the chance to become this year's Welland Winter Carnival queen at the Hooker Street Community Centre on Feb. 2.

Each woman was requested to give a speech on why she was glad to be Canadian. Many of the answers included Canada's beautiful scenery, natural resources, freedom, health care, diversity and, of course, beer.

Of the eight women, four would be crowned princess, one Miss Congeniality and one queen. This year's Welland Winter Carnival queen is Marlene Nenadovich.

"I can't believe it. I'm gonna do my best," she says, adding she's in shock and "very excited."

The first princess is Liza Virag, the second, Lauren Kennedy, the third, Barbara Bilboe, the fourth, Laura Hobson and Miss Congeniality is Kristine Pleau.

Virag says she has also been in the Miss Teen Niagara pageant and is "very excited" to have been recognized this time.

Bilboe says she is "beyond pleased" with her placement. "It is a big enough compliment to be asked to compete."

Angela Gervasio, last year's queen, says it is important for the queen to attend every event dressed appropriately and to "always have a fun time." She says the most stressful part of the pageant is the speech. Everything else is relaxed.

Niagara Centre MPP Peter Kormos says he was "impressed" with the "poise, intelligence and ambition" the women exhibited.

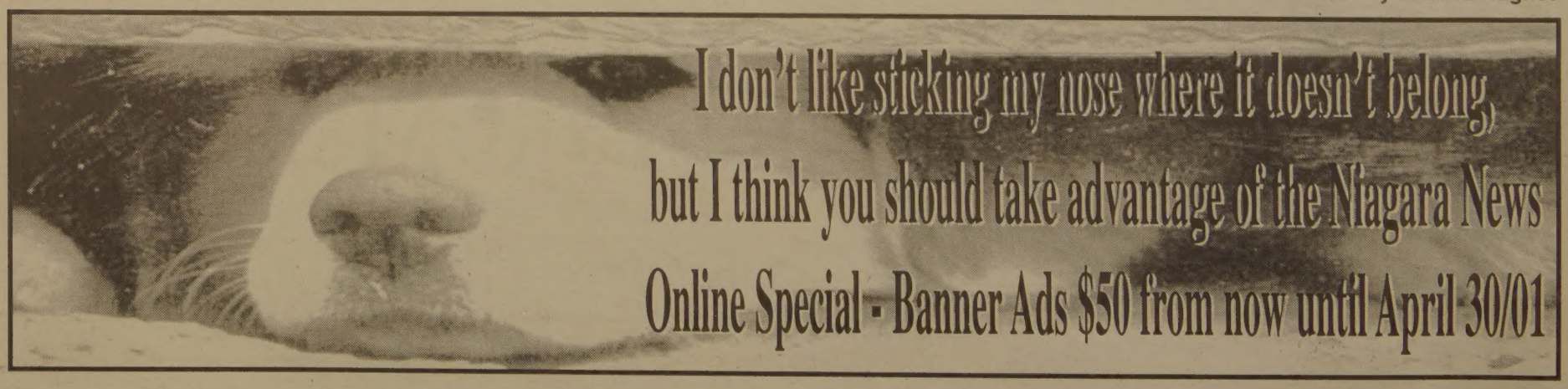
The 38th Welland Winter Carnival opened on Feb. 3 and ends Feb. 11. Events include family skating, snowmobile rides, pony rides and pancake breakfasts.

The French Canadian Carnival Day is on Sunday, Feb. 18, at 565 River Rd. from 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. It starts off with a pancake breakfast. The price for pancakes is $3; children under 12 eat free.

The day includes pony and snowmobile rides, maple taffy and children's games that include prizes. There is no admission fee.

Barbara Bilboe (left), third princess, Marlene Nenadovich, queen, and Kristine Pleau, Miss Congeniality, at the 38th annual Welland Winter Carnival press conference on Feb. 2.

Photo by Patricia Hughes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Patterson to finalize agreements in China

Trip to Shanghai will last 10 days, costs $9,500 plus hotel expenses

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

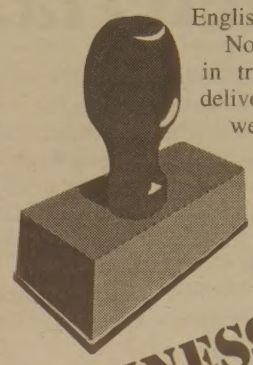
College President Dan Patterson is off to China.

He will be heading there as part of the Team Canada mission with Prime Minister Jean Chrétien from today until Feb. 19.

The president will be signing agreements negotiated through Jos Nolle, the college's director of international education and development.

The trip will cost $9,500 and will be paid for by the International Education and Development department at the college.

"Basically there are two schools the college will be involved with: Shanghai Commercial School and Shanghai Commercial Polytechnic," says Nolle, adding, "Students will be able to take college courses in computer programming, international business administration and tourism. They are all two-year programs and will be taught in English."



Nolle says the college will be involved in training, and college teachers will deliver the course modules during a three-week period. "We will be splitting the tuition revenues between Niagara and the two schools. We have a cost-neutral objective."

Nolle says the agreements will provide exposure for the college in China. "Hopefully, some of the students will decide to pursue post-diploma studies at Niagara in Canada. It's nice to be able to offer diploma programs there."

There will be a deal with an industrial vocational training organization called the Institute for Vocational Training. "It's like a college. It was built four years ago and has 1,000 students. They expect it to have 5,000 in four years," says Nolle.

"It's like a little city. It has hotels and parks. There are 250 companies based there, all joint ventures between European and North American corporations."

The institute is one hour away from Shanghai in a city called Suzhou.

There will be a re-signing of an agreement with Sanda University in Shanghai to allow students to transfer from Sanda to Niagara College with articulated credits.

In addition to the college president, Niagara Region Chair Debbie Zimmerman will be flying to China as well. While there she will be based in Tong Xiang establishing business contacts to promote Niagara's businesses.

The trip costs $9,500, with $2,000 for hotel expenses. Sponsorships provided $8,000 for the trip, while NETCorp will provide the remainder.

College student, 38, dies from car crash

'Traumatic experience' for family, friends, classmates, teachers

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

Feb. 1 was a sad night for the Niagara College community when one of its students died in a traffic accident.

Pelham Road resident, Paul David Clifford, 38, of St. Catharines, was killed when his 1991 Ford Taurus struck a flatbed truck trailer being backed onto property west of Ninth Street on Regional Road 69. Louth Street resident and truck driver Regis Allard, 35, of St. Catharines, was reversing his 1994 International rig when it was hit. He was uninjured.

Clifford had no vital signs when Niagara Regional Police (NRP) arrived at the scene of the 8:05 p.m. crash, just down the street from his home. Lincoln firefighters and the regional coroner were also dispatched. The NRP central traffic unit is investigating.

Born and raised in St. Catharines, Clifford attended Denis Morris High School. Those who knew him say he loved the outdoors. He had attended Aquaculture College in Prince Edward Island. This year, he attended Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake where he was a student in the second term of the Environmental Technician — Water Resources (Co-op) program.

Clifford is survived by his sons, James, 13, and Zack, 10. He was separated from his wife, Kim Jarvis but they remained friends. He is survived by his parents, Bill and Agnes, of St. Catharines. His surviving brothers are John, spouse of Vivian (Ottawa), Frank, spouse of Kathy (Halifax, N.S.), Mark, spouse of Beth (St. Catharines), Peter, spouse of Adriana (St. Catharines), Bill, spouse of Elly (London, Ont.), and Rob, spouse of Lynette (Orillia). His surviving sisters are Joy (Nanaimo, B.C.) and Maureen, spouse of Ken Cripps (St. Catharines). He was predeceased in 1986 by his brother Tom. He had several nieces and nephews: Ruby, Kate, Seamus, Lauren, Christine, Sean, Natalie, Natassia, Tommy, Matthew and Ian.

Cremation has taken place. Visitation was at Patrick J. Darte Funeral Chapel, St. Catharines, on Feb. 3, and a funeral service took place in St. Julia Church, St. Catharines, on Feb. 5. Interment was in St. Catharines' Victoria Lawn Cemetery.

The service was attended by many from the college, including faculty and administration such as Dan Patterson, president, and Jon Ogryzlo, director of the Environment, Horticulture and Agribusiness Division.

In a telephone statement to the *Niagara News*, Darrell Neufeld, executive assistant to Patterson, called Clifford's death a "traumatic experience" for his family and friends, classmates and teachers. "Obviously, it is a great tragedy at any time when one of our students passes away like this," Neufeld said, adding, "Dan (Patterson) was very moved by the funeral."

Speaking on his division's behalf, Ogryzlo said Clifford showed a "very strong commitment" by returning to school in later life.

"We're very proud of him as one of our students. He had a certain rapport with our students and in our program . . . The staff is very shook up about this tragedy. We're still recovering."

In lieu of flowers, the family requested donations toward an education fund for Clifford's sons.

Dependents of small business owners, Padgett wants to give you a scholarship of $500

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

Attention, dependents of small business owners in the Niagara region: Padgett Business Services wants to give you $500.

Padgett is offering a $500 scholarship to high school students who are dependents of small business owners and planning on attending an accredited post-secondary institution.

Criteria for the potential scholarship winner include writing skills and good grades. "(The company) looks at the student's high school average, and the student has to write an essay of 500 words, which is then sent to the head office in Toronto," says Sherry Shortland, office administrator for Padgett.

The scholarship is an annual event. "We've been offering it for nine years," says Shortland.

Padgett Business Services is an accounting and financing provider for small business throughout Canada and the U.S. "We do the preparation of monthly financial statements, government remit services, income taxes," says Shortland. "We do a little bit of everything."

The scholarship is part of an international program in which Padgett awards more than $91,500 in scholarships throughout North America. The local scholarship winner will be eligible for a "grand prize" scholarship of $4,000.

Contact Shortland at 374-6622 for more information.

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COLLEGE REPORT CARD

'Strategies' designed to address challenges, second phase includes cafeteria, MMC growth

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

As Niagara College enters the initial stages of its Master Plan: Phase Two, officials are facing a shopping list of "challenges" to the plan's success.

In a presentation to the Board of Governors in January, Steve Hudson, vice-president of corporate services, outlined the challenges, as well as the "potential strategies" to be used.

He identified building conditions, maintenance funds and limited provincial growth as pivotal issues.

The Master Plan is a multi-year phased plan of construction and renovation, encompassing all three campuses, including infrastructure of buildings, technology and services.

The board approved a $45.1-million budget for Phase One of the Master Plan. These funds were designated for the building expenses of the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake, the Skill Centre for Motive Power Training Building and the Student Residence, both in Welland.

Plans for the $2.1-million cafeteria at the Welland campus were originally included in Phase One. Hudson delivered the bad news in his board presentation that "the student cafeteria must be addressed" in Phase Two.

That phase of the Master Plan will be carrying $3.1 million in funding from prior board approval, along with $4.29 million from SuperBuild funds for the second-storey addition to the Maid of the Mist Centre (MMC), in Niagara Falls.

Projects that are partially funded by the college include the MMC expansion at a cost of $7.8 million, student cafeteria in Welland, estimated at $2.1 million, Mackenzie building renovations at $750,000, as well as miscellaneous renovations to the Welland campus budgeted for $1 million.

Niagara College has yet to secure funding for the following projects: deferred maintenance at $7 million, voice and data networks at $750,000 (yearly), non-computer equipment at $250,000 (yearly), a 25-year landscaping plan at $1.5 million and various Welland campus renovations estimated at more than $12 million.

Externally funded projects include the on-going Brock/Niagara Vineyard project at a cost of $208,000, the Niagara Regional Police Training Facility, which is currently under way at $4.9 million, and the Children's Safety Village, property leased, at $1.225 million.

All of Niagara College's residence projects are externally funded.

The completed Glendale residence, which is a 202-bed facility on a 70,000-square-foot lot, cost $7.755 million.

The 133-bed facility in design for the MMC comes with a price tag of $5.9 million.

The designed expansion to the Welland campus 236-bed facility is estimated at $5.6 million.

The enrolment capacity at Niagara College campuses, including post-secondary, apprenticeship, literacy and skills training, is 4,408 at Welland campus, 1,914 at Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake and by September 2002, 816 at MMC.

Comments presented to the board for the facility conditions of each campus were that Welland campus has variable quality; Glendale is in excellent condition, and MMC will be ready in September of 2002 with its expansion.

Highlighted in Hudson's presentation were these key challenges:

- Black Walnut, Hennepin and Mackenzie buildings are in "poor condition."
- Maintenance funds are "stretched to the limit" as there are no remaining provincial funds or major capital expected.
- Limited provincial support from operating grants lead to major costs associated with the "on-going support of technology" including infrastructure and program-based needs.

Hudson said the college plans to combat these challenges by "monitoring space usage and scheduling efficiencies," leasing out space such as at Hennepin Hall and the possibility of "removing poor space" such as Black Walnut or the portables, if it is cost-effective.

Patterson emphasizes positive KPI results will generate money, opportunities for reinvestment

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Niagara College President Dan Patterson says he wants students to understand the importance of the KPI (Key Performance Indicators) surveys.

The KPIs are government-mandated performance indicators administered across the college system. All 25 colleges in Ontario take part in the survey at the same time. This year's KPI surveys will be taken between Feb. 5 and Feb. 16.

Patterson says he is worried students will have "survey fatigue" and won't take the surveys seriously.

He says he wants students to "think of their total college experience" when filling the KPI surveys out because a negative response could have serious financial implications for the college.

"If we do well, it means more money and better facilities and educational opportunities at the college," says Patterson, adding, "Last year the college received $400,000 by doing well."

Darrell Neufeld (left) and Dan Patterson discuss the importance of the KPIs.

Photo by Calum NcNeil

Patterson says all the colleges are competing for scarce resources and even a neutral response by students could cost the college money.

"What it comes down to is pride in Niagara College," says Patterson. "We want to improve and we want to utilize positive results to reinvest in the college. We don't want people to be neutral. Neutral is negative. We have other avenues of feedback like course evaluations, curriculum reviews and the Student Administrative Council."

Darrell Neufeld, the president's executive assistant, says, "It's very important students understand the financial implications of the survey and take it seriously."

"My hope is students will reflect their pride in the college," says Patterson.

Course evaluations allow students to voice their opinions

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

With the first-ever course evaluations completed for the fall term, students are interested in what faculty has to say about the results.

Bonnie Rose, vice-president academic, last week said that there were more than 20,000 surveys filled out for 1,000 courses and programs in mid-November at the three Niagara College campuses.

BONNIE ROSE

The survey, confidential and independent, rated course content, content delivery, teaching materials and resources.

Compustat, an independent consultant group, compiled the replies.

The results, Rose indicated, showed that of the 29 elements of learning reviewed, 13 demonstrated students were very satisfied, with ratings of 80 per cent or more, 12 were satisfied at a 70 to 79 per cent level, and four were rated from 64 to 69 per cent.

"Students are very satisfied with the education they are receiving at Niagara and are especially pleased with the relevancy of course material, along with how well Niagara College courses are planned," Rose added.

"If this were a report card from our students to the college on our courses, we would have 13 As, 12 Bs and four Cs. This is a really good report, but our goal is to be a straight-A college on every indicator in this and every survey.

"We are reviewing the survey process to establish a plan for an ongoing opportunity for our students to provide the college with feedback at the level of individual courses without surveying them to death."

"The purpose of the evaluations is the feedback it gives back to the faculty," Rose said. "There was a tremendous effort made on the staff's, faculties' and students' parts to administer and fill out these surveys. It's feedback from our students and that means a lot."

"These surveys now provide our students with a way of providing feedback on our individual courses . . . that will help us to enhance our courses and programs." She added that it also gives students a chance to directly tell their teachers and the programs how they feel and what can be improved on.

YOLANDE BISSONNETTE

"This is our only link closely tied to students that doesn't affect funding or the KPIs," she concluded. The provincially ordered KPI surveys will be done in the first two weeks of February. The results of these will rank Niagara College against other colleges for public accountability and provincial funding.

Rose also said that further course evaluations would again be conducted this term for certain programs as well as for the part-time teachers.

"We are going to sit down with focus groups and Compustat and discuss the evaluations, the results, and whether or not we have too many. Then we will know how to handle them next year," she said.

Students can send their individual feelings about their programs or even the course evaluation process to Rose (brose@niagarac.on.ca) or Yolanda Bissonnette, (ybissonnette@niagarac.on.ca) evaluation co-ordinator, and the feedback will be considered in future years.

STUDENTS AROUND CAMPUS

Students get their say in technology money

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

Students pay for it, and now they have a say in where technology money, collected through fees, is spent.

That's what the Student Technology Enhancement Committee (STEC) is all about, says Ryan McLaughlin, chair of STEC.

McLaughlin, 23, is also the Welland campus Student Administrative Council (SAC) president. The second-year Journalism-Print program student says he volunteered to be chair because he had been involved with STEC last year, "behind the scenes."

Started in January 1999, STEC is a "student-weighted" committee that decides where to put the money designated for enhancing the technology at Niagara College's three campuses.

"So initially, we could get something passed without faculty approval," says McLaughlin.

Each area of the college tells STEC what is needed and then the committee decides who gets what.

The amount of money given to each campus isn't based on the number of students it has, but by which areas need money the most.

Each year, there is "usually" a focus.

"It appears as if this year's focus will be the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls, as the opinion around the college is, it's their turn," says McLaughlin.

The money for STEC comes directly from the students. It is additional to tuition. The fee per term for this academic year was $62 for each full-time student. In total, McLaughlin says STEC gets "about $500,000 to $600,000 a year."

"It varies year to year, depending on the number of students."

The money from STEC is distributed to "anything technology related, like keeping the open access lab running and upgraded."

Meetings are called as needed, but every meeting is open, so students are "more than welcome" to sit in.

If students have concerns or wish to make a recommendation about the money, they should contact the SAC office and a meeting can be called.

McLaughlin says he feels STEC makes a difference around the college.

"It gives students a voice. It's an important part of student government that makes sure students have complete use of the technological equipment available.

MSA sets new goals for school year

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

The Muslim students at Niagara College continue to find a place to practice their religion and follow their way of life.

The Muslim Students Association (MSA) of Niagara College ensures that the Muslim students are given that facility. As a campus-based group it receives about $250 in funding from the Student Administrative Council.

The MSA is headed by Wassim Yassine and Mohammad Faisal Ali. Yassine is a student in the Law Enforcement program and Ali, an international student from Pakistan, started the MSA in 1999.

"I felt I was missing an important part of life, to belong to a (Muslim) community. I decided to go to the Welland Mosque to meet Muslim students so we could start this (MSA)," said Yassine.

The response was favourable, and positive support was evident from the beginning, said Yassine. Among the first people who helped make MSA a reality is Lamiz Satti, a Niagara College student.

He said one of MSA's goals is to "become part of the community and function in this society." To do that, they have held some events at the college, such as college clean-up day and Diversity Week, which was covered on television. The program aired as Why Diversity on March 21 sponsored by the Multicultural Network of Niagara Falls.

The Diversity Week took place at the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls last year. People from all walks of life were invited. The feedback was "very favourable," said Yassine.

This year, the MSA is planning an Islam Week to "teach people about Islam and to erase some of the misconceptions created by the media."

The MSA is working on a housing project for Muslim students, so they could live with other Muslim students and practice their religion, said Yassine. Separate housing for men and women is planned.

Valentine's Day

By HEIDI MORRISON
Staff Writer

The Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls is preparing for Valentine's Day.

The Student Administrative Council (SAC) has planned a Valentine's formal and dinner for students.

It will be held at the Park Plaza Hotel in Niagara Falls on Tuesday, Feb. 13, "so couples can do their own thing on the actual day," says Karen Morasco, office manager for the Maid of the Mist SAC.

The cost is $20 a person or $35 a couple.

An early bird prize of a free night at the Park Plaza Hotel will be awarded, as well as, gift certificates from places like East Side Mario's, Planet Hollywood and Hard Rock Café. Door prizes are ready to be given out.

"It will be a nice dinner, like chicken, roast beef, potatoes. The works," says Morasco.

A deejay will be there to provide students with dance music.

For more information, contact the SAC office at ext. 3645.

WHO CARES?

Get involved, have your voice heard

Student Administrative Council
Run for President or Vice-President

ELECTIONS

Board of Governors
Student Representative

Why?

- Get your opinions heard
- Help decide how your student $$ are spent
- Learn skills that you'll carry with you after college
- Let's face it, it looks great on a résumé
- Organize cool and exciting events
- Hobnob with college officials
- You won't need a part-time job, this pays
- Get free pop!

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BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Everyone should celebrate Black History

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer
Column

Tattoo my skin and brand my heart. I've been labeled a radical since the moment I learned to scream and I've never understood why. My message is simple and very clear-cut: Freedom.

In such a prosperous society why do we subject ourselves to a mentality that holds us back and oppresses us? For the religious right and for affirmative action proponents, our whole society is based on the premise that all men are not equal. Blacks and whites are not the same because, if they were, affirmative action would have never taken place. Our system teaches us to separate and resent all that is different.

Affirmative action in some quarters is called a "quota".

In other quarters it is removing the artificial, often subconscious, barriers, to opportunity or advancement. Giving a job to anyone based on his or her sex or race is wrong.

Skin tone means nothing to me. I am human, nothing more.

Those premises are the only ways to destroy racism. In my mind there is one true race: the human race.

In my mind there is room for ethnic diversity but it's used as a celebration of heritage, not as a tool to separate humans. Muslims may have different beliefs from me, but they are no different from me. We all bleed the same colour.

February is Black History Month and, although I'm a "white" man, I celebrate it.

I praise those who are willing to die for their beliefs and give everything to advance the world.

Men and women like rights activist Martin Luther King Jr. and Rosa Parks, the lady who refused to go to the back of the bus, are true heroes.

They saw a problem and sacrificed everything attempting to fix it. King died for his beliefs and I'm willing to do the same for mine.

The civil rights movement of the 20th century was arguably one of the biggest turning points in human history. Blacks fought for more freedom and got it, but the fight is not over.

The struggle will never end until we expand our minds so that we are to a blind to colour. We will never have this utopian society until whites, blacks, men and women alike, sacrifice their status and share everything.

As much as I scream and as often as I throw my punches, I cannot change the world alone.

Every human should celebrate Black History Month.

Bob Marley: Exodus from inequality

(This is the first in a series of articles marking Black History Month.)

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

"I'm not special: this is Jah works and whatever I'm doing is for Jah."

This was Bob Marley's outlook on his global impact.

Born Feb. 6, 1945, in Rhoden Hall, Jamaica, Marley's legacy, and not just in music, will never be forgotten. He brought his heritage to an international level and changed the face of music forever.

Marley was the son of a white British soldier and a black Jamaican woman.

While training to be a welder in his native Jamaica, he started his first band, 16, and met a man named Mortimer Planner.

Planner was an early convert to the local religion Rastafari.

Rastafari began in the 1930s as a group of Jamaicans broke from conventional society forming a new cult, in essence, a rebellion against white, British leaders who, at the time, controlled Jamaica.

Under this new "cult," members would worship former Ethiopian leader Haile Selassie 1 as their god. Selassie is formerly known as Jah.

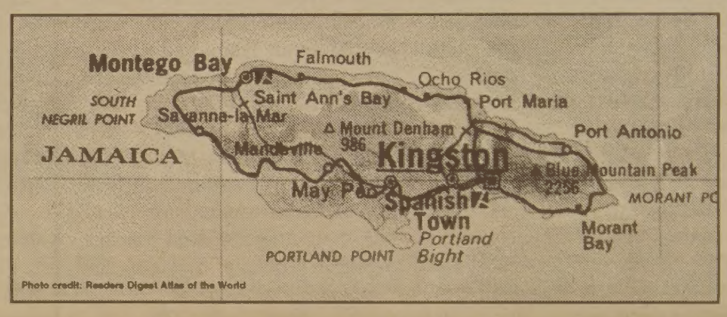
They saw Ethiopia as their Promised Land and white men as an inferior race.

As the Rastafarian doctrine spread, its rules widened.

Smoking marijuana and abstaining from alcohol, tobacco and meat became traditions.

Derived from the Bible, the Rastafarian beliefs spread across Jamaica.

It was Planner who taught Marley the fundamental beliefs.



Marley took them and applied them to his music.

He fought social injustice with his music.

> ***'Sometimes you have to fight with music. Music is something that everybody follows, so it's a force, a terrible force.'***

Viewed as a militant, Marley became an instant folk hero in Jamaica.

"You can't show aggression all the while," Marley said in an interview. "To make music is a life that I have to live. Sometimes you have to fight with music. Music is something that everybody follows, so it's a force, a terrible force."

With the Wailers, Marley's backing band, he did his fighting.

Playing reggae music, which traditionally speaks of freedom and rebel warriors, Marley wrote songs about fighting oppression and freeing one's mind through the Rastafarian way of life.

Marley sang of peace and a harmonious lifestyle. As his popularity grew globally, more whites noticed.

Marley was a powerful political leader, never entering office, but influencing the populace nonetheless.

In 1976, he was shot in an attempted assassination but never gave up his message of freedom.

Rock legends like Eric Clapton have recorded his work and regard him as a "genius. If I had to describe Bob Marley in a few words I'd say he was a great lyric writer, a musical genius and a great leader of men."

Clapton took Marley's song *I Shot the Sheriff* to No. 1 in America in 1974.

Marley died May 11, 1981, in Miami, Fl., of cancer.

However, many of his fans believe he was murdered.

Organizations such as the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) have been linked with the suspected assassination.

Marley was 36 when he died, leaving his wife Rita and many children as survivors. His Jamaican estate has been turned into a museum honouring his work.

Marley lived and died serving Jah. Life and Jah were synonymous to him.

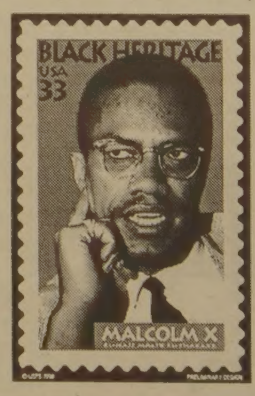
Marley was a legend.

Quote of the Week

From *Redemption Song*

'Emancipate yourself from mental slavery.
None but ourselves can free our minds.'

— Bob Marley



THIS WEEK IN BLACK HISTORY

Feb. 4

- Rosa Parks, initiator of the Montgomery, Ala. bus boycott, born 1913

Feb. 5

- Henry "Hank" Aaron, Major League Baseball homerun champ, born 1934

Feb. 6

- Bob Marley, reggae god, born 1945 in Rhoden Hall, Jamaica
- Arthur Ashe, first black man to win Wimbleton, dies 1993

Feb. 9

- Martin Luther King Jr. meets with U.S. President Lyndon Johnson to discuss black voting rights, 1965
- Leroy "Satchel" Page elected to Baseball Hall of Fame,1971
- Bernard Harris becomes first black man to spacewalk, 1995

Feb. 10

- Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) founded, 1965

Feb. 11

- Nelson Mandela, South African president, finally released from prison after 27 years, 1990.

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EDUCATION AFTER HOURS

Continuing Education keeps growing

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

Continuing Education's enrolment for the winter term is five per cent higher than last year at this time.

Shirley Tomovic, team leader of the development officers for Continuing Education, says there are 5,000 students enrolled in Continuing Education courses at Niagara College.

RICK FORTIER

Tomovic says there were 6,433 students enrolled in courses last term. She says she expects winter enrolment to be almost as high, with all of the courses that start later in this term.

"The fall is always our biggest term," Tomovic says. "The winter is marginally smaller, mostly because of those people who don't like to travel in the wintertime."

In November, Tomovic says, Continuing Education's development officers were expecting to see a "downward trend" in the number of students registered in Winter classes.

"Things are good. There is growth going on."

Tomovic says three courses in French are among the most popular courses she co-ordinates. "It seems to be really hot this term." There are 175 students enrolled.

Tomovic says three courses offered as part of the Canadian Fitness Professionals Training program are popular also. These include personal fitness trainer, nutrition and wellness specialist and personal fitness instructor.

The first two, Tomovic says, are full. Personal fitness instructor is not.

"(These courses) complete a fairly intensive training period over a one or two week session. It's just so popular. (Students) can get certification through this organization."

> ***'Things are good. There is growth going on.'***
> ***— Shirley Tomovic***

Cheryl Bridenbaker, development officer for Continuing Education courses in health sciences, says a lot of students are enrolled in the Geriatric Mental Health certificate program, which is being offered for the first time this year.

"It seems to be an extremely popular program," says Bridenbaker. "The long-term care facilities in the hospitals where they are dealing with people with psychogeriatric problems, Alzheimer disease, those types of things need a lot more expertise in it."

Bridenbaker says Personal Support Worker is another program that is becoming more popular because it too responds to the needs of an aging population.

"We don't seem to be able to graduate enough to meet the growing needs. We have a huge population of seniors, and they utilize personal support workers quite a bit in their own homes, and through the agencies. I can only see that growing."

Rick Fortier, co-ordinator of distance learning (Niagara's courses offered over the Internet) and the Open Learning Centre, says the centre has upgraded to teaching the Microsoft Office 2000 software.

Distance learning, Fortier says, has introduced a new psychology course in human sexuality, as well as a course in web graphics.

Fortier says the number of people taking distance learning courses continues to rise.

"The Winter term is always a good term for distance learning," Fortier says, "because people like to stay at home and not have to brave the roads."

The Open Learning Centre has experienced a few "internal changes."

"We've added some additional stations to accommodate more people, and everything is in the process of being networked."

Art Domenicucci, another development officer, co-ordinates Continuing Education's business courses, including management and accounting, and courses in electronics and mathematics.

Domenicucci says courses in math, accounting and human resources are among the more popular ones he handles.

JANE WEEKS

"The courses I have are geared toward two groups," Domenicucci says. "It's for students who can't make it during the day and want to grab it at night, or people who missed their credit during the day.

"The second group are people in their careers who are trying to enhance themselves professionally."

In the future, Domenicucci says he'll be offering courses in life insurance and photonics.

Jane Weeks, a development officer, says in the spring some of the courses she co-ordinates will have a "fast-track" option.

Weeks, who co-ordinates most of Continuing Education's computer courses, says it's difficult supplying people with up-to-date software.

"It's hard to keep up with what people are asking for," Weeks says. "We're somewhat limited because you have to outfit at least one lab, and it will be very expensive, so you have to know there is going to be a lot of people coming to take (the course.)"

Variety of seminars being offered in winter term

By ANDREW SOVRAN
Staff Writer

Continuing Education is offering several different seminars and workshops at Niagara College this term.

Taralea McLean, a development officer for Continuing Education, is responsible for organizing many of the seminars.

McLean says seminars and workshops like Interviewing Techniques, How to Deliver Winning Presentations, Managing Negative People and Powerful Listening Skills have been among the most popular in the past.

"(Powerful Listening Skills) gives techniques on how to listen well to what someone is saying," says McLean. "That's important for absolutely anybody at any age, whether it's from a personal perspective or a professional standpoint."

Powerful Listening Skills will be held on March 5 at the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake. It begins at 6:30 p.m. and is three hours in length. The fee is $34.37.

Managing Negative People will look at ways to deal with negative people in the workplace. This workshop is being held at the Glendale campus on March 24, beginning at 9 a.m. and ending at 4 p.m. The fee to participate is $65.74.

How to Deliver Winning Presentations is a three-hour seminar that focuses on building the participant's confidence in speaking situations. It is being held on Feb. 5 at the Glendale campus. The fee to participate is $39.37.

Interviewing Techniques, McLean says, is of interest to students approaching graduation or "looking for summer employment (and who) will want to get some tips on how to handle an interview, preparation, how to handle the questions, things like that."

Continuing Education is also presenting workshops of interest to aspiring police officers and firefighters.

Constable Application Preparation, McLean says, will show people who want to be police officers "everything you need to do to apply to a police service in Ontario." This workshop informs participants about the application process and the various tests. The workshop fee is $145.53.

The Fire Department Recruitment Seminar examines the physical testing and interviews conducted by the fire department for applicants. This six-hour seminar is being held on Feb. 17, beginning at 9 a.m. There is a fee of $74.44.

McLean co-ordinates all of Continuing Education's social science courses, as well as oversees programs including Firefighting, Chemical Dependency Counselling, and Teaching Adults.

Protecting our natural heritage

Jean Fau is a chief park warden for Parks Canada. He and his colleagues protect the plant and animal life in our national parks. They also help Canadians explore and enjoy these special places. This is just one of the hundreds of services provided by the Government of Canada.

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EDITORIALS

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Drunk driver gets free ride to bank

It would appear as if our government views us as the children we are so eager to emulate.

In a recent court ruling, a Barrie woman was awarded $300,000 for drinking and driving. Can everybody say entrepreneur?

Justice Claire Marchand felt that Linda Leigh Hunt, a 50-year-old woman from Barrie, was the victim of a company Christmas party that recklessly allowed her to drink and drive.

The Sutton Group Incentive Realty Inc., like many businesses, held a Christmas party for staff, and like many Christmas parties there was alcohol available. Hunt apparently consumed twice the legal blood-alcohol limit.

Hunt then proceeded to a bar, drank some more and attempted to drive home during a snowstorm. Some how as a result of the snow and the alcohol, Hunt lost control of her car and sustained severe head injuries and broken bones.

Of course, Hunt's response to the ruling was "it's fantastic." Why would she think anything else? At the time she was a temporary secretary at the realty office, so not only did she score free booze from the place, but she also managed to weasel out about 15 years in wages for the simple reason she doesn't understand the simplest of all principles: don't drink and drive.

Whether or not someone at the company should have taken her keys or called the police is incidental. The fact remains that this case sets the precedent for all people who get drunk at a staff party to go out, smash themselves up and get set up with a paid holiday for years to come.

Why is it that our legal system refuses to hold us responsible for our actions, Marchand's decision was based on the fact that alcohol inhibits one's decision-making ability, and therefore Hunt couldn't be held responsible. This isn't astrophysics, maybe it is because of the college life that surrounds us, but it could be assumed that most people understand getting "jalooed" means impaired judgement.

Hunt knew that alcohol would have that affect on her when she drank it, yet she isn't being held responsible. Rather her hand is being held, a soother is being put in her mouth, and daddy corporation will be taking care of her for years to come.

As adults in a society where alcohol is a legal drug, we should be able to draw the line as to how much we drink, or whether we drink at all? Should we decide to take that risk, it should be us, not the apathetic people around us who are held responsible for our actions.

Ryan McLaughlin

Canada: not 51st American state yet

All the best things in Canada are being Americanized.

The United States is Canada's largest trading partner, and many of our products end up south of the border. We send them our wheat, lumber, fresh drinking water and trained professionals.

In exchange, they supply us with endless hours of mind-numbing Hollywood entertainment.

We have nothing against trading with the United States; it's smart business, but a line has to be drawn — some things should stay in Canadian hands.

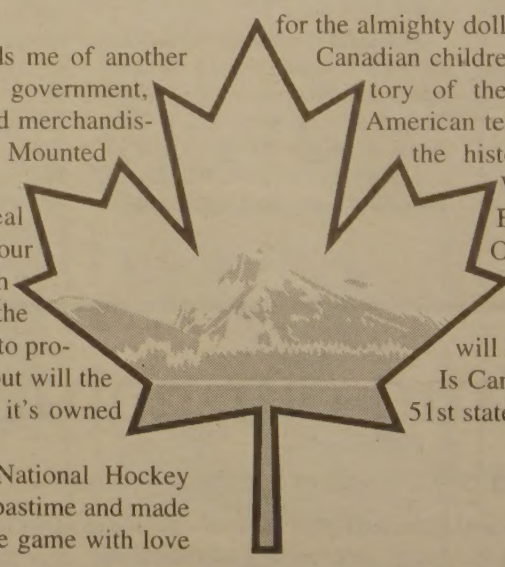
Last week, Canada's largest brewer, Molson Companies Ltd., announced that it was selling 80 per cent of the Montreal Canadiens, one of professional hockey's oldest teams, to Colorado businessman George N. Gillet Jr.

Can any one say déjà vu?

The sale of the Canadiens reminds me of another business deal, made by the federal government, when it decided to sell the image and merchandising rights of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to Disney in 1995.

Like the RCMP, the Montreal Canadiens are a unique symbol of our country's culture. Having a team called "the Canadiens" based in the heart of separatist Quebec does a lot to promote federalism and national unity, but will the team remain a symbol of Canada if it's owned by Americans?

The Americans are ruining the National Hockey League. They've taken our national pastime and made it their own by replacing love for the game with love for the almighty dollar.



Canadian children know more about the history of the United States, thanks to American television, than they do about the history of their own country.

Weak American beers like Budweiser, Coors Light and Old Milwaukee are big-sellers in Canada.

When will it stop? Where will it end?

Is Canada destined to become the 51st state?

Collin Coulis

Your voice or opinion is welcome in our Letters to the Editor section. Our policy regarding letter submissions is this: All letters must be received on the Friday one week prior to publication. Each letter must include the writer's name, college identification number and program of study.
All letters must be signed and include a day and evening telephone number for verification use only.
All letters can be mailed or brought to the Niagara News newsroom, Room S212, Simcoe Building, Welland Campus

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INSIGHTS

Open eyes wide with earthly responsibility

Won't it be nice when bottled water is the rule, not an option?

Won't it be nice when cans of air become part of our shopping list?

Won't it be nice to be able to visit trees, flowers and all things green in "Nature Reserves?"

Won't it be nice when we can grow creatures for consumption, healthy designer babies and perfect races?

Won't it be nice when disease is a memory, and population a plague?

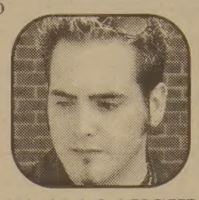
Won't it be nice to have a world that is equal, and everyone goes hungry?

Won't it be nice to read this years from now and laugh at its absurdity?

At the risk of sounding like a tear-jerking black and white infomercial, there are some things we should all think about. With a society seemingly on a relentless quest to destroy itself, it is no wonder we don't take a moment to weigh the options and choices we have.

We have the choice to eat meat and, thus, we choose to destroy our planet.

OK, so I'm a tree huggin' hippie, deal.



RYAN McLAUGHLIN
Staff Writer
Column

I don't want to preach. I'm not perfect, but we whine about and cry over the masses of starving children in our nation and abroad and the deforestation of the rainforests, yet we think nothing of going to the 24-hour McDonald's and filling ourselves with a bacon-double cheeseburger.

We are cutting down trees at an obscene rate to create grazing land for cattle production. The majority of the land involved can only be used for a few years before it is stripped of nutrients and cannot grow anything, causing more land to be cleared, and so the destructive cycle spins.

Maybe it's just me, but I don't want to live in a world where I can't go on a nature-loving, beer-drinking camping trip because of a lack of nature.

Valentine's Day worth it

Valentine's Day: 24 hours in which to show the ones you love how much you love them, right?

I have never understood why we take only one day a year to do that.. When I love a person, I tell that person every day. Valentine's Day was no different to me than another day until I found out what it was all about.

There are many explanations as to how Valentine's Day evolved. I want to focus on one story because I think it best depicts what it is.

TARA FORD
Staff Writer
Column

The day got its name because priests decided to have boys draw the names of different saints rather than the names of girls. On St. Valentine's Day the priest would place the saints' names into an urn or box and the young people would draw a name from the container. For the year, the youth was to fashion his life after the life of the saint whose name he had drawn.

In addition to this tale, there are many other rationales. While it can't be historically proven, there were seven men named Valentine honoured with feasts on Feb. 14. Of these men, there are two stories linking incidents that could have given our current meaning to St. Valentine's Day.

One of these men was a priest during the reign of Roman Emperor Claudius. He was admired by everyone who attended his services. Around this time, Claudius was recruiting men to serve as soldiers in his wars, without much success. Men did not want to leave their wives or families. As a result, Claudius became angry and decreed that no more marriages would be conducted and all engagements were off.

Valentine, the priest, being a romantic, thought this unfair and secretly married several couples. Claudius found this out and threw Valentine in prison where he eventually died.

Another version of this story is that St. Valentine was jailed for helping Christians. While Valentine was in prison he cured a jailer's daughter of blindness. Enraged, Claudius had Valentine clubbed and beheaded on Feb. 14, AD 269.

In a final explanation I read, Valentine fell in love with the jailer's daughter. When he wrote her letters, he signed them "From your Valentine."

We'll never know the real story. I do know that learning more about how Valentine's Day came to be has made me see the importance of it.

We may have every day to tell those we love we love them, but this day is extra special.

'Where the hell's Leamington?' student prefers city of Windsor

I grew up in a town in southwestern Ontario called Leamington. When I came to the Niagara region and told people where I was from, the typical response was, "Where the hell's Leamington?" So I started telling people I was from Windsor.

My dad has lived in Windsor for half of my life. Two of my grandparents live there. I've worked in Windsor every summer since I was 13. I think that qualifies as being "from" Windsor. Eventually, I decided I'd rather have people think I was from Windsor than from Leamington. I'm actually not that fond of my hometown. I'm not fond of small towns in general.

KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer
Column

For one thing, Leamington, with its 14,000 population, is a small town, and you can't walk down even the smallest and darkest of backalleys without bumping into at least five people you know. It's guaranteed at least four of those five people will ask you if you've got a cigarette or if you're "holding."

For another thing, Leamington is famous for being home to the H. J. Heinz factory, and it's difficult to go for a drive in the summertime without being stuck behind an unstable 20-kilometre-an-hour tractor pulling a gigantic load of tomatoes.

I don't know if you've ever seen or smelled a length of street covered in rotting tomatoes in 100-degree weather, but it ain't pretty.

For yet another thing, I grew up in a house on Lake Erie's shore, which, from April to August, is covered in fish flies. Fish flies are large, ugly, annoying bugs that stick to flat surfaces until death, and generally make entering or exiting a house quite difficult, and washing a car damn near impossible. Plus, they're gross.

Windsor, on the other hand, is perfect in every way. The fish fly count is low, it's ketchup-factory free, and, with a population of more than 250,000, familiar faces are few and far between. There's also a big casino, four large movie theatres, a gigantic mall where the CD selections are varied and plentiful, and Detroit is a hop, skip, and jump across the Ambassador Bridge away. That easy accessibility is good when many of your relatives live in Michigan.

Best of all, Leamington is a 45-minute drive away.

Uhhh! blasted writer's block

Jjjjjjjjjjjjjjjfffffffjfjfjfjfjfjfjjfjfjfjfjf jfjfjfjfjffj. I have writer's block. Fun, isn't it?

My fingers push only two keys. What would Ernest Hemingway say? This death of a gift at such a young age is sad, isn't it?

I can picture the mourners now. The As and Bs, the verbs and adjectives, all pass me.

My pen and computer wear black and hang their ink-covered faces.

So, here I sit, in front of a well-maintained machine waiting hopelessly for an idea, a word, a syllable — anything.

KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer
Column

Waiting is the s***** part, but the anger is the adrenaline source leading you to ram your fingers against the keyboard banging each digit with such force until one scrambled bunch of small black letters makes sense.

The anger is Phase Four, as I call it, and is one of the last ones before the breakthrough or breakdown, depending how you look at it.

You know which if you're an optimistic person or a pessimistic one.

The first three phases, of course, add to the meltdown of one's writing ability, not to mention the plummeting self-esteem or the uncontrollable rage when the block is gone and you're left to discover someone else has beaten you to the punch line, figuratively speaking.

All is lost. I'm still here babbling about my impediment and explaining the phases it contains . . . Phase One, the realization of the loss; Phase Two, mild frustration or irritability, yes, that's right similar symptoms of lack of sleep, being overworked, PMS in some countries, and TMS (testosterone menstrual syndrome); Phase Three, the tear-filled eyes, wild laughing, ripping-out-hair phase right before the ignition of anger, I might point out.

I would inform you of the other phases to come, as I am sure that they exist, but there's a problem: I have yet to reach them.

Get more original with your expression of love this St. Valentine's Day

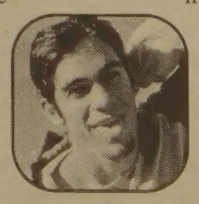
Flowers? Check. Chocolates? Check. Gel in my hair? Check. Little stuffed teddy bear that will make her go "awww" for about three seconds of her lifetime before it is conveniently stuffed into a closet? Check. Gum for my bad brea . . . Uh-oh. Where's my gum?

I can't pick her up on Valentine's Day, give her all these presents, tell her we are going to a romantic dinner, then down to Niagara Falls where I gazed into her eyes for the first time only to have her pull her face away because I didn't bring my gum!

Uh-oh. What do I do?

I guess this means Valentine's Day is not complete. I guess this spells doom, disaster, failure and ultimately a bad memory for the rest of the Valentine's Days we spend in our lifetime. She will always remember this moment.

She will remember the moment that I forgot my gum. Not even the bear can save me now. Is it my fault? Or is it the marketing crew for Trident's fault? Why couldn't they just make a catchy phrase like "Trident: Save your Valentine's Day with fresh breath."



DAN D'AMCO
Staff Writer
Column

You'll note the exaggeration about another day on which card stores, teddy bear stores and, yes, chewing gum retailers get to sell their products at the low price of playing off people's emotions; perfect love can only come on the perfect day.

Why, I ask? Why do we go through the trouble? The bother? They know it's coming. Your loved ones know. They got you something for Valentine's Day and you sit there and you say, "Oh, gee . . . Oh, um . . . I didn't know. I guess I didn't get you anything. I am so shocked!" Meanwhile you can't help but grin, your present for that person is in your backpack or your purse or your pants. Then you spring that surprise, the same one you sprang last year and likely the same one you'll spring in the many years yet to come.

This topic is not a new one. This is a very old one. It dates back to the first anti-I-don't-need-a-day-to-tell-my-loved-one-I-love-her conformist. It is a very old argument and I am just here to refresh your memory.

Real romantics should surprise their loved one or her on the day before Valentine's Day, the day of and the day after. Make it a three day in a row extravaganza. That's my solution.

Give teddy to your old dog. Give the chocolates to your dieting friend. Give the gum to your dentist. Try something better. Try something that will really "wow" your beloved. Be original.

This reminds me of my friend whose friend is getting married on Valentine's Day. Talk about a smart guy. He kills two days with one bear. Talk about being conventional. As for this Valentine's Day, it's my first with that special someone. Hallmark, here I come. Put a hold on the bears for me will you?

BODY WATCH

Helping Canada's youth make healthy choices

By CRYSTAL LANGILLE
Staff Writer

Getting youth to make healthy lifestyle choices is the focus of a group of Brock University researchers and Niagara youth agencies.

Youth Lifestyle Choices — Community-University Research Alliance in Niagara (YLC-CURA) received part of a $3.3-million grant to involve youth aged 12 to 20 in programs encouraging Canada's youth to make healthy lifestyle choices.

These are decisions that youth face dealing with smoking, drugs, nutrition and physical health, says Tara Lawrence, a program assistant for YLC-CURA.

A Jan. 19 press release states the YLC-CURA "will focus on finding, describing and building models of effective strategies for engaging youth in meaningful participation in programming, policy and other activities affecting them and in making healthy decisions."

The Health Canada Centre of Excellence on Youth Engagement awarded the grant to the YLC-CURA as a "core partner" in an alliance of researchers and community agencies across Canada.

Researchers included are Wilfrid Laurier University in Waterloo, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in Ottawa, Heartwood House in Halifax, N.S., and the Environmental Youth Alliance in Vancouver, B.C.

Youth agencies involved are the District School Board of Niagara, the Niagara Catholic District School Board, Niagara District Health Council, Niagara Centre for Youth Care, the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, The City of St. Catharines Parks and Recreation department, the City of Welland, Operation Springboard, Port Colborne/Wainfleet Healthy Lifestyles Coalition, Regional Niagara Public Health, the YMCA and the YWCA of St. Catharines.

"This is an exciting opportunity for the youth of Niagara and throughout the country to have a voice in national research activities, programs and policy decisions affecting youth," says Teena Willoughby, co-director of YLC-CURA and an associate professor of child and youth studies and psychology at Brock University.

This program will allow youth agencies to plan, design and implement activities in partnership with health and academic professionals. They will then be able to research, publish and communicate their findings using "youth friendly" means, such as youth-accessible articles, Web pages and workshop presentations.

An annual conference will be organized to discuss results and gather comments from other youth and professionals.

"We want to fill in the existing gaps," says Lawrence. "We're working together to fulfil the needs of youth."

The YLC-CURA received a $600,000 grant a year ago from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council in Canada "to examine youth lifestyle choices."

Lawrence says they conducted a survey and are in the process of compiling the results.

Compulsive overeating; serious side effects

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

Using food to hide emotions and cover-up emotional suffering can lead to serious health risks.

Compulsive overeating is defined as a condition in which a person has an addiction to food. A man or woman suffering from this uses food to hide emotions and fill an emotional void, to cope with daily stresses and problems.

Food is used as a means of obtaining comfort by the person.

Most people who suffer from compulsive overeating are usually overweight, they are aware of their eating habits, and they generally have low self-esteem.

Most fear not being able to control their eating. They often feel their life will be better if they lose weight. They believe food is their only friend, and fear eating with others because, unable to control their food intake, they'll feel embarrassed and ashamed.

The health risks are severe and can include heart attack, high blood pressure, high cholesterol, kidney disease or failure, arthritis and stroke.

A food bingeing cycle begins. Men and women who are compulsive overeaters sometimes hide behind their physical appearance feeling guilt and shame for being overweight. As compensation, they use food to cope with their emotions. The bingeing begins.

Telling such a person to "lose weight" is like telling an anorexic person to "gain weight."

The overeater binges while the anorexic avoids food.

Psychologists and medical physicians believe compulsive overeaters have a constant need for love, worthiness and to "be good enough."

Last day for National Eating Disorders Week

By TERRI LYNN LeBLANC
Staff Writer

This is the last day of National Eating Disorders Week.

Many people suffer from eating disorders. It is a common trend among young women since many define acceptance by being thin. Eating disorders are caused by low self-esteem and the need for control. Where does one draw the line between control and obsession?

The two most common eating disorders are anorexia nervosa and bulimia nervosa. Anorexia and bulimia are not just about the way one looks or acts; they are a state of mind.

Almost all people have the need for control over their lives.

Some control their spouse, children, school or their job. For people with an eating disorder, their main control is over food.

However, often the point is reached where the person doesn't control the food; rather, it controls them.

People who suffer from anorexia nervosa usually have a great need to control their surroundings and emotions, physicians and psychologists have determined.

Avoiding eating is an anorexic's way of dealing with problems.

Most have a fear of becoming fat or being called fat, so they are afraid of losing control over the amount of food they eat.

Anorexics are constantly in denial. They often lie about food, such as "I've already eaten" or hiding food so they won't have to eat it. Some anorexics are known to eat candy, drink a lot of coffee and tea and smoke cigarettes. This gives them a feeling of being full but provides no nutritional value. Smoking suppresses their appetite.

Some signs and symptoms of a person suffering from anorexia are compulsive activity and exercise, cutting food into small pieces and rearranging them on their plates or wearing baggy clothing to hide the "shame" of their bodies, dietary restriction and social withdrawal.

Some physical consequences of severe weight loss are difficulty thinking clearly, sensitivity to cold, lowered blood pressure, weakness, shrinking of muscles and organs, thinning of hair, pale skin tone, dehydration, and developing a "peach fuzz" type of hair on their face and arms.

The eating disorder also causes depression, and conversely, depression causes the eating disorder.

Bulimia nervosa occurs when a person consumes a large amount of food in a short period of time and then either induces vomiting, or takes laxatives to rid the body of the food. After consuming so much food the person feels guilty, and punishes himself or herself.

People suffering from bulimia often have episodes of bingeing and purging to avoid and release feelings of anger, depression, stress or anxiety. Most bulimic men and women are aware that they have a problem.

A person will often hide or store food for later binges and will often eat secretly.

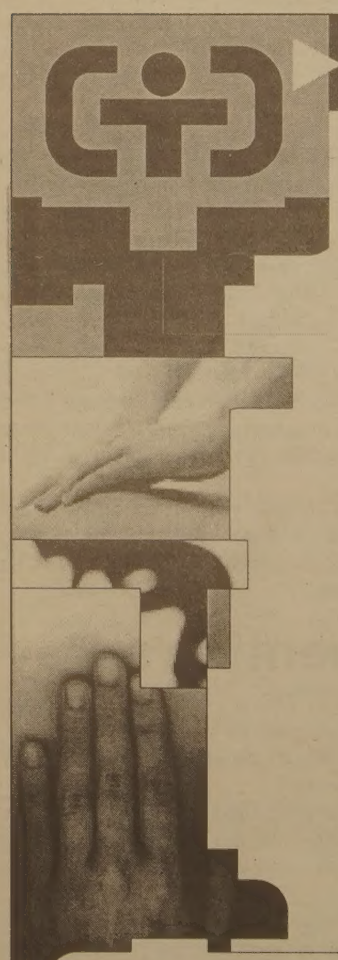
Some signs of bulimia are constant food consumption followed by purging, a feeling of lack of control over eating behaviours, strict diet plans and exercise, the use of laxatives, diuretics, enemas and diet pills.

Physical consequences of bulimia are swollen glands, puffiness in the cheeks, broken blood vessels under the eyes, complaints of a sore throat, chest pain, muscle cramps and fatigue.

Some people think that to have either anorexia or bulimia you have to be extremely "thin" or of "average" weight, when in fact you can be any size and suffer from an eating disorder.

For more information, or to address eating disorder concerns, contact the health centre in room L20, Lundy Wing, at the college's Welland campus. Referrals are also available.

Additional assistance is available by contacting Sheena's Place at (416) 927-8900. Experts there will help provide awareness and support for those suffering with eating disorders.



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CREATIVE CORNER

College graduate writes Croatian cookbook

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

The irony doesn't escape her. As a child, she hated the Croatian food her parents cooked. She begged them for peanut butter sandwiches in her school lunch.

Then, she'd trade her lunch with friends for salami sandwiches and gourmet salads. Now, she trades recipes with them.

In an e-mail interview, Gordana Pirker-Mosher said she thanks her parents for having held tightly to their and her ethnicity, since it ensured her solid roots and an ability "to explore a variety of opportunities."

One such opportunity was co-writing her first cookbook, The Best of Croatian Cooking. Released in September by New York-based Hippocrene Books, Inc., it offers 200-plus assorted recipes from her native land.

She wrote the cookbook with her friend Liliana Pavicic, an elementary school teacher living in Burlington. The two authors spent months e-mailing each other recipes, notes and ideas before finally sending their effort electronically to a publisher.

Pirker-Mosher, 33, a full-time sales associate and a freelance writer, lives in Grimsby with her husband of 2 1/2 years and two daughters.

Selecting which recipes to include was difficult, Pirker-Mosher said, but "most important," they adapted the dishes "to suit the North American kitchen" with ingredients readily available at the local deli or grocery story.

"We added a lot of our own personal touches and memories throughout the book. There is some neat trivia about Croatia also in the book," she noted.

Ten per cent of the book's proceeds go directly to War Child Canada, an organization begun by the music industry to aid children suffering in war-torn countries. "We hope to bring some positive news, culture and awareness forward," she said of the former Yugoslavia she visited with Pavicic. "As mothers we felt strongly towards donating something towards a children's organization."

Pirker-Mosher is no stranger to the war-torn land. Born in the small town of Sisak, Croatia, she immigrated to Canada in 1970 with her family, settling in Hamilton. She was nearly three years old then. Eventually moving to Niagara Falls, she attended Stamford Collegiate there.

At 26 and a single mother, she decided to return to school to be able to better provide for her children. She chose Niagara College in Welland, but she added, "I was unsure if I could handle my classes, studying and being a single mom!"

She earned her Journalism-Print program diploma in 1995 and credited her success to "the guidance of some wonderful teachers" like Phyllis Barnatt and Gary Erb. It was there she moved to Burlington so her eldest daughter, who is deaf, could take a bus each day to a provincial school in Milton. She landed her first for-pay writing job with the *Burlington Post*, a weekly newspaper. "It was great and the pay was not too bad as a freelance writer."

As for her present writing success, she said, "I have always enjoyed writing, and this is my dream come true," adding being published by a New York publisher is a "big deal" to her.

"It has opened a lot of doors for me, and I want to walk through as many as I possibly can." To date, she said, the cookbook has done "extremely well," adding the publisher "has been quite pleased with us."

The two women have had book signings from Oakville to St. Catharines, and they have appeared on Breakfast Television on Citytv in Toronto.

They are aiming to have a second cookbook by July and even formed their own publishing company, Spice of Life Books Inc, through which they'll self-publish.

Pirker-Mosher said because she grew up in a restaurant environment, "food was always part of my life. I decided to put my two favourite skills together: writing and food."

She said she loves to cook and is "constantly in the kitchen. I love to entertain and I love trying out all kinds of recipes — not just Croatian. And, yes, there is a lot of pressure from family and friends to always make a good meal."

As for writing, she tries to hone her craft four to five hours a day "usually at night or early morning," outside her job with a U.S.-based rental car agency. Writing, she said, gives her "the freedom to explore the world but most important to explore your capabilities as a writer and as a person."

Journalism-Print program graduate, Gordana Pirker-Mosher, makes an appearance at the Tecumseh cafeteria at the Welland campus. Her first book, The Best of Croatian Cooking, was published in September.

Photo by Paul Finelli

Her advice for aspiring writers? "What I learned is that you have to love what you are doing — it is not a get-rich-quick career. It takes time. You may really have to get a day job and write on the side until you get started. Accept criticism always as a writer from every angle . . . Don't follow others. Set your own path . . . never wait for an opportunity (but) look for it. Sometimes it is a far reach, (and) other times it is close at hand, but, for sure, things do snowball into great experiences for life."

Artist dreams to draw for comic book company

By KRISTIN COLLVER
Staff Writer

Kevin Grice's world includes his art.

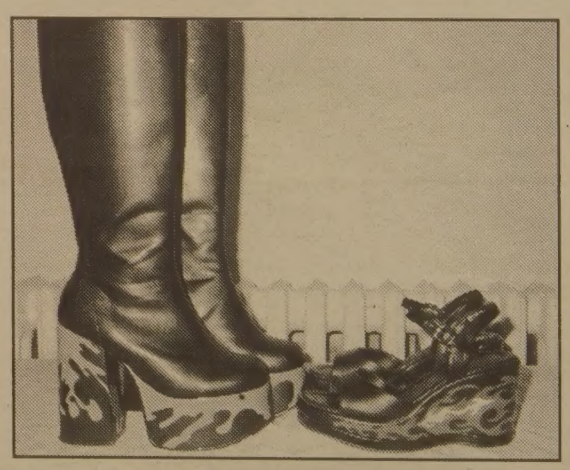
What does a blank page mean to you? Is it just a blank page?

To Grice, 24, of Niagara Falls, Ont., it could become a man of muscles crashing through a brick wall, or a scantily clad vixen seductively eyeing the viewer. The possibilities are endless.

Stepping into Grice's bachelor apartment is like stepping into a fantasy world with life-sized Kevin Grice originals adorning the walls, and Batman, Spiderman and Spawn leaping out at you from every angle.

An abstract painting is on one of the walls. Beside that, bordered by a string of red Christmas lights, is a drawing of a giant robot woman whose stare pierces you. On the back of his bathroom door is a picture of an angel, complete with

halo and mini skirt. Walking into his kitchen you see on a pillar a comic book rendition of his girlfriend checking out a comic book rendition of Grice himself appropriately placed on the opposite wall.



Splat and flame designs done by Grice.
Photos and sketch submitted by Kevin Grice

Grice says he first realized he had a gift when he was about the age of six, but he has been drawing seriously for about nine years.

He has had many accomplishments with his art, such as a T-shirt and sign design for a place called Mom's Restaurant in Niagara Falls. "I would skip school and go there for coffee and draw. Then Shirley (the owner) asked me if I wanted to do up some designs for staff T-shirts and also for a sign."

He has also done the corporate logo and the corporate seal for the Niagara Greyhound Adoption Inc.

As well as being able to draw, Grice has also done vinyl sticker designs for shoes, cars and BMX bikes.

"I do shoe designs with vinyl sticker material. I design the sticker myself and cut it out. I've done a few flame designs, and Aztec and splats. I also did up a Korn sticker for a friend's car, and I've done stickers for friends' bikes, mostly BMX bike company names, like Haro, Mongoose, Hutch and GT."

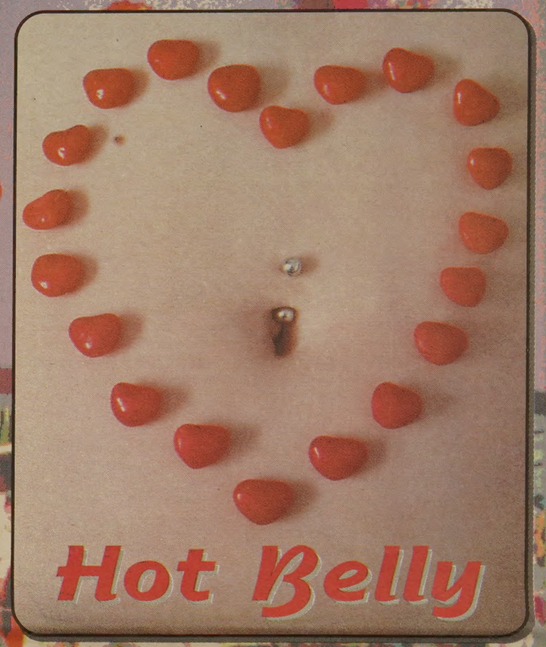
If given the opportunity, Grice says he would like to draw for a comic book company or "something along those lines."

Grice says he does have aspirations to attend Sheraton College in Oakville for computer animation or graphic design.

Valentine's Sensations

Tender Kiss

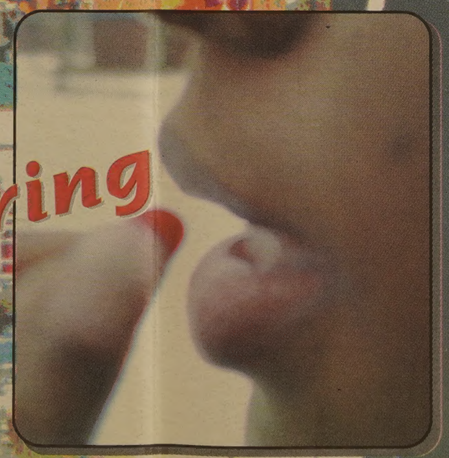
Eye Love You



Hot Belly

Love Blossoms

Sweet Sharing



Bearing it all

Photos & Layout By:
Paul Zinelli, Ryan McLaughlin

WELL-EQUIPPED

Equipment available to assist disabled students

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

Assistive equipment is available in the special needs office for disabled students to use.

Gilles Prescott, of Montreal, Que., co-ordinator of the Centre for Students with Disabilities, says, "Some of the equipment that is very frequently used are the computers that are attached to the network."

"Students who need to work on class material (or) do tests, exams and other kinds of work where they need to work independently outside the lab can do it in here."

He says they have to have the same equipment at all three campuses in Welland, Niagara Falls and Niagara-on-the-Lake.

"We have one computer that's equipped with a scanner and a program called Kurzweil 3000."

Kurzweil 3000 is a scanner reader program that is used by people with visual impairment or by those with reading disabilities. A piece of paper is put into a scanner that goes along the page and transfers the text into readable material.

"The program will read the sections, the paragraphs, the bubbles and everything so that the student who has difficulty reading, either because of their visual limitation or their learning disability, can hear an audio track of what is being said so that the computer will speak it. It is a computerized voice. They're not necessarily human-like or pleasant, but at least you have the ability to hear what the material is on print.

"Now a lot of students who have reading disabilities use this equipment to take their tests, particularly in cases of tests where there is a lot of text — multiple choice, for example. The audio feedback will give them the opportunity to make sure that what they read is what they think they're reading.

"There is a Kurzweil computer system at all three campuses, so all students can use that." A program such as Kurzweil is advanced and sophisticated. It costs $2,800 for the software with an average of $1,800 to $2,000 needed for the computer capable of processing it.

James Davis, 22, of Crystal Beach, is in the two-year General Arts and Science program at Niagara College's Welland campus. Davis says he uses the computers during tests and to do assignments and to study.

"I use the computer because I am an auditory-learner. I learn by hearing things, and one of the computer programs in the special needs office has a program (Kurzweil) that reads anything that is scanned into the computer."

"It's definitely a good program. I don't think I would be as successful as I have been without it."

He says the program reads to him so he is able to hear what he wrote and correct his mistakes. "It has made it easier to study for tests because the computer is able to read faster than I can."

He says the program "definitely" helped him with his English essays. "It let me listen to my essay more than once, and I was able to correct my mistakes." He says his high school had nothing similar.

Prescott says, "All the equipment here is for the students. There is other equipment, like enlargers, for people with visual impairment. We have some spell checkers and tape recorders we lend to students who can't afford to buy their own. We have a whole variety of other smaller pieces of equipment that are being used.

"We have the TDD machine, Telephone Device for the Deaf, in the office here and at Glendale. A student with a hearing impairment would be calling us here from home from their unit and then they would be phoning our unit and then we type text back to each other."

He says he would compare it to Internet-chatting. "Actually that is a good example. That would be somewhat similar in terms of real-time chatting."

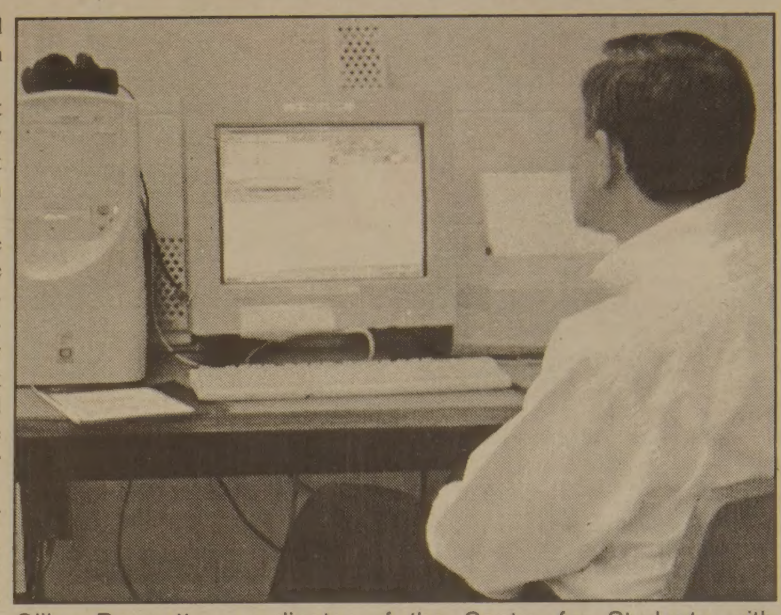
The equipment is used, he says, "anytime throughout the academic year. Anytime the students need access to the equipment it's there at the back. They have to come in at the front desk and explain what they need and we will usually try to book time on the computers or on other devices for the students.

"During tests, exams, either mid-terms or end-of-term exams, it is used quite extensively because we have a lot of students scanning tests and exams and having their test read to them, as well as students using the computers."

He says equipment is available for people with auditory impairments. "We have the FM system. (It) is composed of two lightweight packs with rechargeable batteries. One is in the middle where the teacher would wear a microphone on their lapel and wear the pack. As they speak, the information is transmitted from their unit to the receiver, which the students wear. They either use their hearing device, and it's connected to it, or they use a pair of earphones.

"It's good for people with an auditory impairment but it is also good for people with attention problems where they easily get distracted by the noise around them. They can easily listen to the teacher without the environmental sound."

Dragon Naturally Speaking is a voice recognition program. A person speaks naturally to the computer that prints the sentence. Text Help aids students with grammar, spelling and sentence structure.



Gilles Prescott, co-ordinator of the Centre for Students with Disabilities, demonstrates how the Kurzweil 3000 program works.

Photo by Rachel Montour

The program reads the text back to the student to give audio feedback. Prescott says there are products for people with visual impairments, one of which is Jaws, which enlarges the text.

How do students benefit?

"It gives them the opportunity to compensate for their disability. It gives them a chance to show their real potential without having them reduce or limit their work. For example, for a student who would have a learning disability where grammar and spelling is a major problem for them, and where no kind of upgrading would help, the spell checker and grammar checker would help them with their text.

"But they may still have excellent abilities researching material, putting the information together in a concise form, summarizing large documents. So, usually students with learning disabilities have very good, if not excellent, skills in many areas but they will be deficient or having problems in one specific area.

"Once you compensate for that, it shows their true abilities. The same (can be said) for enlargers. A student who can't read can't answer questions, but if you enlarge their text material on the exam, they can read their exam and answer questions.

"We have seen a lot of successes where students who have used the equipment have shown tremendous improvement in their grades and their ability to go through the requirements of the program. Many students who use the scanners, for example, their grades just shoot up after they have a chance to have auditory feedback."

"Some pieces of equipment may be used by people with different disabilities but some pieces of equipment can only be used by one type of disability, so whatever usually helps a student and whatever is useful and works we use it."

Handi-Trans a 'vital service in the city of Welland'

B.J. Baye, 22, of Welland, a student in the Interactive Multimedia (Post-graduate) program, uses the Handi-Trans service to attend the college.

Photo by Rachel Montour

By RACHEL MONTOUR
Staff Writer

It's called Handi-Trans and it's there for disabled people to use at any time.

Margaret Fortin, of Welland, is the transit office co-ordinator for the Welland Transit Handi-Trans service, which was established in 1981.

Each trip costs $2. She says if disabled persons wish to use the Welland Handi-Trans "they must be registered for the service. They have to fill out an application." The two-part application must be filled out by the client and by a medical physician.

"Their family doctor must sign the application." Fortin says the application then can be submitted back to the office. The screening process takes about one week.

She says the Welland Handi-Trans is a "vital service in the city of Welland. It does assist individuals that have mobility difficulty. We service the cities by boundaries," with "pick-up at home and drop-off at the desired locations, accessible door to accessible door."

Priority trips are designated for medical, education, work, as well as recreation. "We kind of prioritize our trips. We require 24-hour advance notice." She says clients are able to book up to a "two-week window" because the company is computerized.

Welland Handi-Trans receives its funding from the municipality.

Asked if the driver will assist the individual when getting on the bus, she says, "They will assist from accessible door to their destination. If they require additional assistance they can bring a personal attendant with them." The attendant must pay as well.

Asked how long the average rider is on the bus, she says, "It depends on how many people are being picked up and their destinations." Attempts are made to accommodate same-destination people. On average, for riders taking the bus "it takes about half an hour. If a person is going from point A to point B it takes about 10 to 15 minutes. We also take in outlying (locations) which may take a bit longer because of the distance to travel."

Julie Grand 22, of Welland, is in the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program at Niagara College's Welland campus. She has been using the Welland Handi-Trans since the new year. She says she used the service to travel "back and forth to Niagara for class."

"I am going to continue to take the Handi-Trans this semester. It is a valuable service because it takes me where I need to go. It's great because it gives you some independence without having to rely on others for a ride. I think it's a fair price. It's the same price as the regular transit buses. I guess it depends on how often you use it."

COMMUNITY NEWS

Program gives students global experience

(This is the fourth part of a series on environmental programs at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.)

By PAUL FINELLI
Staff Writer

From Niagara's parks to Ecuador's tropical forests, students in Niagara College's ecosystem restoration program gain first-hand training in rejuvenating ecosystems across the world.

An environmental professor and co-ordinator of the Centre for Environmental Training's Ecosystem Restoration (Post-graduate) program, Al Unwin compared the program with others such as the centre's Environmental Management (Post-graduate) program. While the latter provides more of "a broad overview of management-related issues for government, industry and different sectors," the former is "very focused on . . . taking (on) disturbed ecosystems of various types," Unwin said.

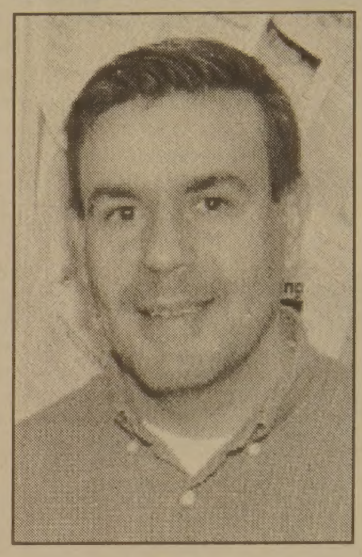
In other words, besides doing background research on a designated site, students try "to essentially fix all the problems that led to the destruction of that particular area in the first place" and try "to reintegrate the original system that was there or a system that functions as close to an ecosystem as possible," he added.

"It's very focused, would say, rather than some of the other programs, which provide some broad-based skills. This one tends to be very specific to one particular profession, that being restoration ecology, which, in North America is, I think, rapidly expanding as a profession."

The specialized program combines expertise from the Centre for Environmental Training and greenhouse facilities to aid rehabilitation of ecosystems through government and private sector initiatives. An advisory committee of professional restoration ecologists ensures the program remains current in its combination of theoretical, demonstration and practical curriculum. Graduates are able to undertake restoration with larger ecological concerns, in such careers as environmental planner and junior environmental biologist.

What does restoration involve? "A restorationist would go out, let's say, to that field over there (south of the campus) that has been cleared for agricultural activities or for whatever reason, and actually undertake research on the soil conditions and whether there's any contamination and recommend which plants, (and) then go out and introduce different plants to that area, try to create habitat for certain species," Unwin explains.

"In this area, this campus, with the 15-acre wetland that we have



AL UNWIN

outside, we've been trying to restore that. So that would be another classic example of a wetland that's functioning pretty good, but we're trying to improve upon the conditions that are there, increase the different types of aquatic vegetation, the different types of species (like birds) that will come and utilize that site for migration through this area or for nesting or that type of thing."

Along with work on the decommissioned sewage lagoon on campus, for example, the centre has various partnerships through which the students receive hands-on work. They include local groups like the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority, the Niagara River Restoration Council and the Niagara Parks Commission.

"We've been working . . . with the Niagara Parks Commission and actually restoring some of their lands," Unwin gave as an example, noting the commission's style has been "very much traditional European gardens and lawn maintenance" but is looking towards a "more naturalized approach."

The centre is also actively involved in co-operative international projects and has ongoing agreements with Thailand, India, China, Argentina, Honduras and, more recently, Ecuador.

A three-way partnership was finally arranged last term between Niagara College, College of the Rockies in British Columbia and the Universidad Espiritu Santo in Guayaquil, Ecuador, to facilitate the development of sustainable, community-based eco-tourism in coastal Ecuador. Three graduates selected this March will travel to Ecuador to spend three months collecting baseline data and initiating ecology- and tourism-based community projects.

On forming such partnerships, Unwin said, "The restoration has tremendous potential worldwide." He added, "I'm part of this Society for Ecological Restoration, so I chat a lot with individuals from around the world and we just kind of foster some partnerships through them."

What about the students' optional internships in the countries? "They really do enjoy it. We had one of the students who just returned, actually in late December, (and) had a really good time. (When) they come back, they've got probably pretty close to being fluent in Spanish because they spend five months (there)."

He enthused that graduates then offer prospective employers something different. "It looks amazing in a résumé . . . That type of experience is going to go a long way towards career development."

(Coming soon: geographical information systems' practical applications in daily life.)

Worker deals with effects of Crohn's disease

Disease first diagnosed in April 1990 for 44-year-old woman

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

Cindy Aird-May lives each day not knowing if she'll be in the hospital the next, and says she "wouldn't wish this upon anyone."

Aird-May, 44, of St. Catharines, lives with Crohn's disease, which attacks the bowels. When the bowel lining enlarges and becomes inflamed the bowel starts to spasm and close; this causes diarrhea.

It started in the summer of 1989. Aird-May began to feel sick all the time. She had constant pains in her stomach, dizzy spells and dropped from 125 pounds to 89 pounds. In October 1989, doctors began testing. The tested her for six months. In April 1990 Aird-May was diagnosed with Crohn's.

"I was upset and scared because I didn't know what was going to happen," Aird-May said, adding, "I was frustrated because of the medication I had to take and the side effects it gave me."

It was a "fairly new disease," and the medication was strong, she says. The medicine Aird-May first took was a steroid designed to fight the inflammation associated with a variety of diseases. Throughout the years, and after seven different medications, Aird-May now uses Entacort, a drug made in the United States to treat Crohn's.

From 1990 to 1992, Aird-May was on steroids. In March 1992, she was hospitalized. For six weeks, she was given an intravenous drip to try to give her bowel a rest.

"It settled down after the six weeks in the hospital for a bit but I had to stay on my medication and continued to get attacks," says Aird-May. These consist of stomach cramping when the bowel becomes inflamed, causing anything she eats to automatically cause diarrhea.

In the summer of 1996, Aird-May had her bowel resectioned. The doctors took out a heavily infected part of the bowel. For nine days, medical staff fought the infection, getting it under control enough to allow the operation. Post-operative care took another two weeks. Days after she was released from the hospital, Aird-May was back spending another nine days again fighting a bowel infection.

Aird-May continued her medication, doing well, until spring 1999. She started to have constant cramping again.

> ***'This disease is annoying, frustrating and degrading.'***

The doctors started tests, finding an obstruction, a fluid-filled mass, in her ovaries. Christmas 1999: Aird-May had her ovaries and fallopian tubes, now enlarged twice their normal size, removed. Their inflammation was irritating her Crohn's.

In the spring of 2000, Aird-May again began feeling dizzy and sick. The doctors found she had gallstones and this was irritating the Crohn's. In October 2000, Aird-May had her gallbladder removed.

Aird-May says that there is a "remote chance" that Crohn's disease causes colon or bowel cancer and can affect anything in her body from her esophagus to her anus.

"If I had more much more bowel removed I would have to have an operation that would make me carry around a bag on the outside of me for my bowel movements."

Crohn's disease can lead to eye problems, such as glaucoma, because of some of the medication. It can also lead to diabetes, osteoporosis and liver problems.

Aird-May must take medication for the rest of her life to prevent the bowel from becoming inflamed and closing.

"This disease is annoying, frustrating and degrading," says Aird-May, adding, "It is hard to plan anything because I never know when I will have an attack. It is embarrassing to have to go to the washroom in other people's homes."

Aird-May says her family helps her through the pain and understands when she isn't feeling well enough to do anything. Her family's support helps her to know she doesn't have to feel alone, she says.

Eddie May, 46, is Aird-May's second husband. He says he tries to understand what she is going through. "It's rotten that we can't go out and do a lot of things," says May, adding, "I resent the fact that she can't have a good time and is always worrying when we are out."

Aird-May continues to work despite her disease.

"They won't put me on disability because my workplace has to agree, and they say I'm not sick enough. They say they can just find easier things for me to do." Aird-May says that her employer, Toys R Us, is co-operative though about her going home when she gets sick in the middle of her shift.

DON'T EAT SNOW!

The snow flea, one of the most common insects on land, is not a flea at all. They are less than 2mm (1/16 in.) in length! They look like pepper sprinkled in the snow. Scientists say they believe the snow fleas come to the snowy surface to mate.

picture found at http://www.ifdn.com/natnote/jan2500.htm

GLOBAL GROOVE

Friends among nations getting together

The English as a Second Language Department at Niagara College held a welcoming party for new ESL students. This gave them a chance to mingle and make new friends. About 80 students attended the party which took place in January at the After Hours pub on the Welland campus. From left, are VarunSharma, from India, Veronika Cedeno, Maria Carrera and Enrique Carrera, all from Venezuela.

Photo by Nauman Farooq

Family opens their home to students

By CLINTON HAGGART
Staff Writer

She remembers.

Maria Burns remembers what it was like arriving in Canada from Italy in 1974. It's only natural, then, when the opportunity arose, she and her husband, Barry, would open their home to international students.

It was 1976 when Niagara College rented the public library on Victoria Street, in Niagara Falls, to teach the English for Newcomers program.

Burns, now of Niagara Falls, was in that program.

Newly arrived from Italy in 1974, she met her husband, Barry, in April 1975. They married in November of that year.

They opened their home to students to "fill space" in 1999.

Burns said, "Since we were so close to the Maid of the Mist Centre (in Niagara Falls) and Robin (their daughter) was getting married, we decided to give it a try."

'Being with young people helps you to stay younger.' — Maria Burns

They spoke to Sean Coote, Niagara College's international student adviser, who helped them find students to stay with them.

This summer the couple's other daughter, Lisa, will also marry. Burns said they will have an empty bed they may need to fill.

"Being with young people helps you to stay younger."

Nicole Hoo Yik Chew, 25, of Cebu, Malaysia, a student in the Culinary Arts program, Rachelle Taylor, 20, of Acton, Ont., and Junko Yogo, 25, of Nagoya, Japan, students in the Tourism program, are staying with the Burns.

Yogo said, "They treat me very well," adding although she is away from her family she is not homesick. "It's my second family."

Burns said, "It has been a very nice experience. We've had wonderful students and we've learned so much about their culture."

College ESL teacher says she's satisfied with 'being in charge'

By NAUMAN FAROOQ
Staff Writer

Different people find different satisfaction from their jobs.

Being in charge is what Naomi Ives likes about her job.

Ives, 27, of Port Robinson, Ont., is an oral communications teacher in Niagara College's English as a Second Language (ESL) program. She says being "the boss" in class is what she enjoys about her job.

Ives is working at Niagara College for the second time. She previously taught in the same program last summer for two months.

She heard about the job from another ESL teacher's mom, Stacy Turner. Both Turner and Ives are good friends and were informed about the job by Turner's mom, who also once worked for Niagara College.

Ives has a bachelor of arts degree in sociology from Wilfrid Laurier University, in Waterloo, Ont. She is also a graduate of George Brown College's Teaching English as a Second Language course. That college is in Toronto.

She has done her fair share of travelling too, which, she says, she enjoys. "I worked in Ecuador for six months, teaching English."

She has also visited Zimbabwe, England and various parts of Canada and the United States.

For the future, Ives wants to earn her master's degree in social work.

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The 'Leave the Pack Behind' name for this program has been adopted, with permission, from the World Health Organization's 1999 World No Tobacco day campaign.

Created by: Catherine Leblanc & Erika Steibelt, Queen's University

Love around the corner?

A sign used by Country Corner Meat & Deli, Quaker Road, Welland, offers a special meaning for Valentine's Day.

Photo by Laura T. Ricciuto

Reunion Time!

STAMFORD C.V.I. GRADS

Stamford Once!

Stamford Twice!

Yadda, Yadda,

Yadda!

A high school reunion coming soon . . .

. . . See the Feb. 16th edition of the Niagara News for all the details

YOUTH VIEW

Welland YMCA relocating to campus land

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

Top college officials are calling the partnership relocating the Welland YMCA to Niagara College property a "win-win" situation.

The agreement, announced Jan. 30, partners the college, the YMCA and the City of Welland.

"I'm going to be the first member to sign up, that's for sure," chuckled Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

In an estimated $11-million project, Niagara College, donating the land, will also be applying for a SuperBuild grant from the provincial government. If the college is successful, the City of Welland has agreed to contribute $1.5 million, leaving the remaining balance to fund-raising.

The new facilities can be expected to be "up and running" in about "two or three years," said Patterson.

Students at Niagara will be offered a "very reasonable membership fee," but Patterson says the "details still need to be worked out with the partnership."

When asked the new facility's approximate location on campus, Patterson chuckles and says, "I don't want to alarm anybody" but there is "a possibility" of it being at Hennepin Hall.

"I think this building has seen its day," he says, explaining it was initially built in 1967 as a temporary structure with a life expectancy of nine years. "It's now 2001." Other possibilities include locations along Rice Road.

Although there are plans for the YMCA to be on campus, Patterson assures students that the existing fitness gymnasium facilities in the Mackenzie building will remain "in place."

Patterson recalls the initial offer made to the YMCA in 1995 which, he says, didn't materialize at the time because of "creative tensions that existed between the former mayor (of Welland) and the locations for the new facilities."

At the time, the YMCA considered three possible locations. These included downtown Welland, the corner of River and Woodlawn roads, or the Niagara College Welland campus.

Patterson explains that the 1995 proposal was the only one made to the YMCA, although he admits he "kept in touch with them, reminding them of the benefits Niagara College could offer."

"I'm absolutely delighted that this has now gained acceptance," he says with a grin, admitting there were times when he felt "discouraged" the time invested would not develop into a tangible agreement.

"When you see logic prevail and people work together . . . it encourages you to pursue and work on partnership developments.

"It's been a dream of the college," explains Patterson of the newly developed partnership, adding, "There are just so many win, win, win situations to this."

College Job Centre reaching out to students

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Niagara College's Job Centre is reaching out to students to help equip them for the future.

This semester four Job Centre Employment Services employees will be offering vital information on how to get career employment.

For the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake it will be Dan Bernard and Cheryl Evans while Karen Brown and Janet Forfar cover the Welland campus. Forfar will also be visiting the Maid of the Mist campus in Niagara Falls. She will be speaking to graduating year classes of programs with helpful information on creating professional résumés, cover letters and techniques for dealing with the nerve-wracking job interview.

Forfar says they will be visiting all of the graduate level classes and doing presentations depending on what the instructors require, either a 10- to 15-minute presentation or a more in-depth and fuller presentation.

Last week the Job Centre started setting up tables 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on Tuesdays to promote the resources available to students. These tables are set up with information for students about summer employment. Each week will have a different theme presented.

JANET FORFAR

Forfar says that the objective with every class presentation and the table presentations is to make students aware of the resources available such as telephone, fax, one-on-one assistance with résumés, cover letters and interviewing techniques. For graduating students, job opportunities with employers of their industries will be discussed.

"Preparation and research will help students get ready for a job search. Bringing a rough copy of their résumé and cover letter in with them gives us something to work from," says Forfar.

The Job Centre is open from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. weekdays. Forfar says all students need to do is come in and make an appointment. The Job Centre staff will make sure it is at the convenience of the student's schedule.

As advice to graduating students, Forfar says, "Maintain a positive attitude, be confident, and let employers know what you can do for them."

Young offender's facility closes, leaves man jobless

By HEATHER RUTA
Staff Writer

He was employed one day, broke and jobless the next. This was a hard-hitting reality for Chris Froud, 22, of Welland.

Froud was employed at Cerminara Boys Residence Inc., an open custody young offender's facility in Niagara Falls. He had been employed there for five months and found out on Feb. 1, that his job had been terminated.

On Feb. 1, the employees of Cerminara found out the facility was being closed by the Ministry of Community and Social Services. Cerminara was the only young offender home in the area run as a for-profit business. When the government funding was cut, the house became no longer viable.

Once the facility closed, all the remaining residents were placed in other facilities in the area.

Cerminara had been open for about 30 years, employed 15 people and had four co-op students in the January-to-April semester.

"I personally have a new car, insurance and rent to pay for. Also, I am attempting to save for a future career in policing. I now have to scramble to find some kind of temporary source of employment just to make ends meet. This worries me.

"The youth home was in place as a mid-point between a youth's freedom and time in a secure custody facility. While working at Cerminara I was responsible for maintaining a structured and disciplined environment, as well as structuring time with independent activities such as schooling and community outings.

"Because of the sudden closure we weren't given two weeks' notice. Therefore the government requires our employer to pay two weeks salary for every year an employee has worked. If they haven't worked a full year then they are entitled to one week's salary.

"I don't like the way the closure was handled. Many people relied on that job as their only source of income. With no notice, it was tough on all of us," said Froud.

Cerminara played a major role in removing youths from peer negativity and allowed them to make their own decisions. It also offered around- the-clock supervision, which dramatically decreased the opportunity for criminal activity.

This home was also a benefit to the surrounding community "situated in a predominately elderly neighbourhood the youths would cut grass for those neighbours who couldn't in the summer months and shovel snow in the winter. On top of that once a week the youths were involved in an adopt a street program where they cleaned up a piece of roadway.

"When we were notified that our jobs were no longer, most of the employees were very disappointed. With no prior warning, most of us were in disbelief.

"If I could talk to the person responsible for the closing I would probably ask if they realize how many people their decision has affected, or if they realize that members of the communities will suffer but most importantly the employees that have families to support.

"I worry the most about making all of my payments on time and maintaining my credit rating but, hopefully, all of us who are now unemployed will move on quickly to another job and succeed there."

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THE GARDEN CITY

Mayor favours uni-city, but other cities don't

St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby talks to the Niagara News about the future of the Niagara Region

By JENNIFER CHORNLEY
Staff Writer

St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby has a plan for the Niagara region, that dreadful word nobody wants to hear.

"UNI-CITY."

"Let me give you a prime example of apathy," he intones.

"During the Berkeley Report (consultants who held many public meetings to determine the public's solution for the Niagara region amalgamation issue), the public hearings and the heads of council initiatives, the most outspoken communities were those who opposed amalgamation.

"The people of St. Catharines have been relatively quiet about the state of governance in Niagara. (About) 700 people showed up to discuss governance in Fort Erie, less than 120 in St. Catharines.

"This is apathy folks . . ."

These comments are from Rigby's 2001 state-of-the-city speech he presented to the St. Catharines Chamber of Commerce on Jan. 24.

The 60-year-old mayor says in an interview at St. Catharines City Hall, "A uni-city is the way of the future for Niagara. The essence of one city is not a cost-saving position." He criticized the Berkeley Report for not making feasible recommendations.

"There wasn't any one particular way of dividing up or reducing the municipalities." Rigby agreed that there is not "a great deal of desire" by the 11 other municipalities to unite.

Rigby states his position. "A uni-city will permit planning with a broad vision, protect our farmlands, encourage growth in a rapidly changing global economy and provide wonderful communities in which to live."

"I firmly believe that a Niagara uni-city is the only progressive solution for all 12 Niagara municipalities."

Rigby continues by saying that if 12 municipalities were planning together rather than competing, this would help expand all of the tax bases.

He says that even with a uni-city the taxes would not be as high as those expected in Toronto. The property taxes there are expected to increase 77 per cent over the next five years, says a *National Post* news report.

"Despite what everybody says, the municipalities of Niagara are run very efficiently, unlike some of the other communities in Ontario. We're not seeing the budget cuts that appear to be (happening) elsewhere."

Instead, the mayor says, there would be cost savings through shared services. He provided an example. If St. Catharines had a sewer line investigation unit, and if it were not being used full time, possibly the City of Thorold could use it.

> ***'A uni-city will permit planning with a broad vision, protect our farmlands, encourage growth in a rapidly changing global economy . . .'***

With the uni-city, Rigby also pointed out that improvements could be made in reducing the overlapping of municipalities' and the Region of Niagara's departments. This "would be getting rid of the upper management people. People who work in those departments will not disappear. We need the people; we will just have better co-ordination (of services)."

Rigby says, "Unfortunately, the message the rest of Niagara is hearing is that a uni-city is the best alternative for St. Catharines and only for St. Catharines." He explains, "In my opinion, the uni-city is the only way to responsible planning, the only way to a powerful voice with the provincial and federal governments, the only way to a dynamic presence in the business community, the only way to a comprehensive tourism strategy for the Niagara region."

The two boundary issues St. Catharines must deal with are the city limits, the outer boundary of its municipal jurisdiction, and the urban boundary, which is the limit of urban expansion allowed under the city's and the Region's Official Plan (OP).

Rigby's comments on these issues were, "We have no right to any expansion beyond our city limits without the provincial government approving an amalgamation with the next community, or a transfer of jurisdiction of the requested lands. Under our OP we cannot (expand into our urban boundary) without public meetings and proper application made and approved by council and, ultimately, the provincial approval. This approval has been shifted to the Region to determine if the requests are appropriate. All of this can be finally decided by the Ontario Municipal Board."

Rigby says, "Our problem facing us is that we are rapidly running out of undeveloped land that can be developed within the urban boundary, which also puts pressure on council to approve infilling projects and brownfield development. In-filling and brownfield development is not all that bad, it just takes a different outlook on potential development, and is very much more costly to build, which ultimately raises the cost of building."

He says he wants to concentrate on three planning issues: good urban planning for the conservation of Niagara's valuable farmlands and fruit lands; businesses and the economy; and finally, good urban planning for the environment, physically and sociologically.

As well, Rigby says city council plans on "tackling" the boundary issues and taking the appropriate action called for, subject to staff report recommendations.

"Ice facilities and performing arts facilities need to be identified and an effort taken to respond positively to the recommendations. We will also need to deal with our governance issues not only on a regional level, but on a city-wide basis."

Rigby commented on the availability of medical care in St. Catharines by saying, "There is a doctor shortage in St. Catharines. Approximately 33 GP's (general practitioners) are needed. We have been part of a recruiting program involving our medical profession, the Region and also Port Colborne. The results are promising with 18 new doctors graduating this year showing interest in moving to Niagara. These (recruits), hopefully, will come to St. Catharines and other parts of the Region."

St. Catharines Mayor Tim Rigby poses with this horse from the merry-go-round in Port Dalhousie, in the atrium behind the mayor's office in St. Catharines City Hall.

Photo by Jennifer Chornley

This, Rigby says, is "A great start but more is, of course, needed and will continue to work with the rest of the Region to attract doctors to our area. We must also be looking to providing the very best in medical facilities, which I would hope the Regional Health Council is working toward providing."

For his efforts, Rigby earns $59,000 annually as mayor, plus $20,000 from the Region and $4,500 from the hydro commission in St. Catharines of which he is a member of the board of directors.

To run or not run for a third term is something Rigby would not comment on. "Definitely, I enjoy the work. I do. If the city is still at the same basis as it is presently, I think I would, but I would have to see where we are in three years. If it is something different, I would really have to think about that."

Before becoming St. Catharines mayor, Rigby was an insurance broker, beginning in 1971. For him, "(it) is a good job (and) a great service career. It was excellent training for becoming mayor."

As for being mayor? "I don't think there is anything I don't like, because I love being with the people, and with this job you are with the people a lot."

Rigby has a three-year degree in business administration from Babson College in Boston, Mass.

He has been married for 38 years to Virginia, with three children ranging from 31 to 35.

His three children are Susan, with three children, Mary Ann, with four children and Tim with three children. The family tree has added another generation as he has "10 grandchildren officially" since Jan. 25 when the Rigby family welcomed a little girl named Catharine Paige.

In the Feb. 16 edition of Niagara News look for . . .

Rachel Montour's story on fire evacuation procedures for people with disabilities.

Δ • • Δ

Jennifer Chornley interviews Nancy Ferris, executive director of the Alzheimer Society of Niagara, about her career changes and life.

ENTERTAINMENT

Emerging alternative band display their sound at college

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

Clarknova hit the After Hours pub stage on Jan. 25 with their 'Hard Alternative Radio Rock – Shaken not Stirred' style, as the five member band call it.

Greg Caines, Steve Kulba, Scott Wilson, Chris Ferguson, and John Lord, all from Newmarket Ont., and surrounding area started the band three or four years ago.

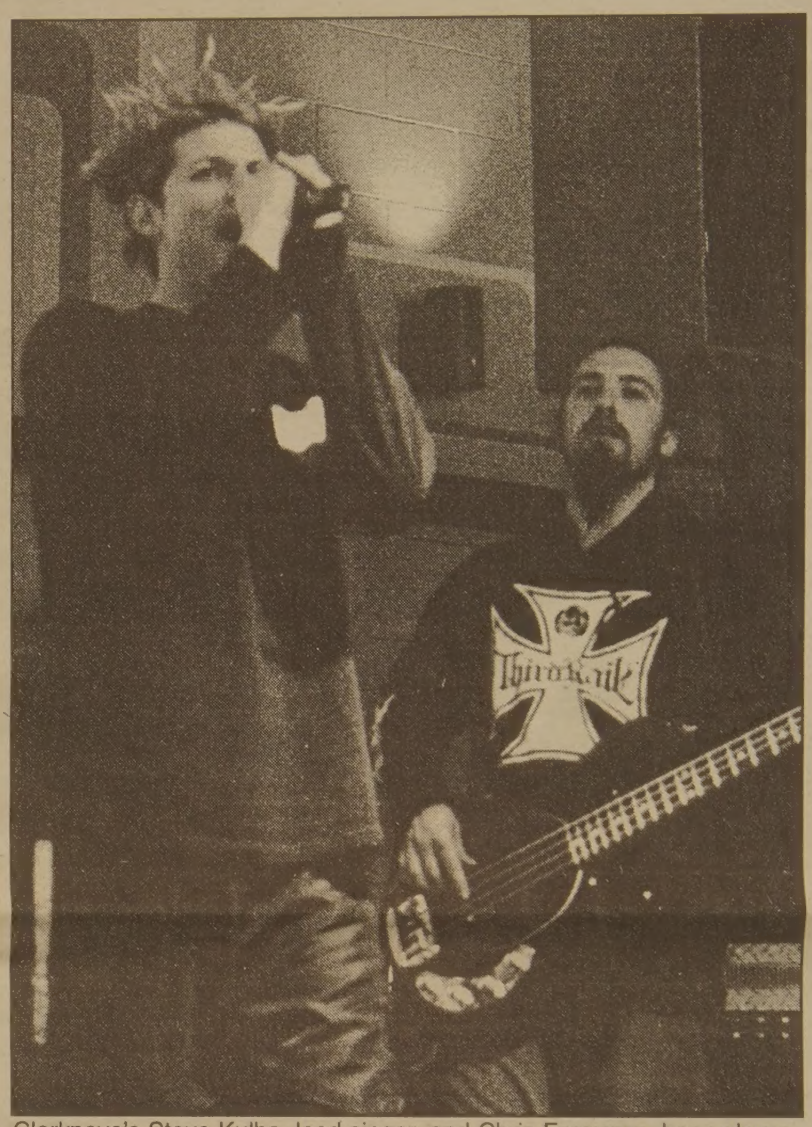
The bands released their debut single *Johnny Under*, last April and began a six-week tour with The Headstones.

Clarknova have played with other great Canadian bands including I Mother Earth, Choclair, Danko Jones, Matthew Good Band, Sloan, Elwood, Finger Eleven, Serial Joe and 5440.

Clarknova have been on tour all over Canada and with the recent release of a third video and single *Re-Stain*, they are set to become one of Canada's upcoming bands. Kulba says the name is a meaningful background and says, "It's from a movie called Naked Lunch by David Cronenberg. It's about a writer who is going through writer's block. Someone gives him a typewriter and when he's stoned it writes for him and its name is clarknova."

When interviewed, these five ragged and angry-looking attractive guys, one can be instantly put in the place of a listener, not an interrogator. They shared inside jokes, randomly funny instances of being on the road, and in a major way, the essence of what really goes on in a band and the bond being in one can create.

They took to the stage at noon, their music and performed their stage personas with the anger and rage of a true grunge millennium band.



Clarknova's Steve Kulba, lead singer, and Chris Ferguson, bass player, serenade the students of the Welland campus After Hours pub with their heavy alternative style of music.

Photo by Kandis Thorsby

Victoria takes startling look at dementia

By KANDIS THORSBY
Staff Writer

The dance-theatre work Victoria appeared at the Brock University Playhouse Theatre on Jan. 27 and, I might add, was one of the best plays I have ever seen.

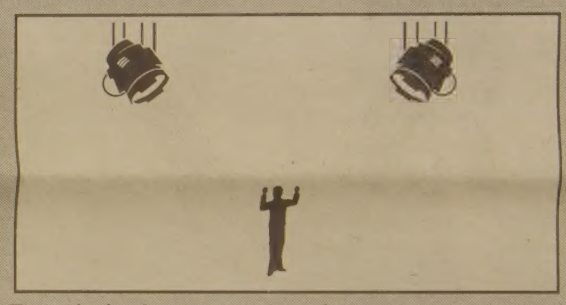
Victoria takes the perspective of a 90-year-old lady who is going through the awful stages of dementia. The stage transforms into a hospital room with the curtains drawn and Victoria sitting, alone and small, in her wheelchair.

Dulcinea Langfelder gives an amazing performance, from the expressive dances to the old lady's sense of humour. She takes the audience hand in hand through her character's torturous phases of losing her identity and reality.

The play offers a double perspective of expression, one through the acting, the other through the intimate dances.

At one point, Langfelder performs a dramatic intimate dance with her character's wheelchair and, in the next moment, a vigorous tap dance filled with the recalled joy and humour of her character.

Eric Gingras, the only other actor in this play, performed the role of Victoria's orderly, increasing the humour of the drama while adding an outside perspective on the dementia-ridden character's world.



From the inadvertent wetting of underpants to chasing her shadow, Victoria gave an amazing perspective into the sadness and pain one endures in this disease's relentless progression.

I felt the fear and emotional turmoil. That is what a play, performance, or work of art is supposed to do. I was at once very moved and pleased with the whole drama.

The Wedding Planner makes marriage questionable

By PATRICIA HUGHES
Staff Writer

Bells are ringing in The Wedding Planner.

Jennifer Lopez plays Mary, a woman who plans the most incredible weddings, but lives a rather dull life. She has not dated in two years and wants desperately to become a partner in the wedding planning business that employs her.

Mary is about to be hit by a garbage dumpster when a man pushes her out of the way. He turns out to be a very handsome doctor, Steve, played by Matthew McConaughey. They end up going out and having a great time. Mary thinks it is too good to be true, and she is right.

It turns out Steve is the groom of one of the bride's whose wedding she is supposed to plan. This is not just any wedding, but the wedding that is sure to get her the partnership she seeks. Not only that, she becomes good friends with the bride.

This is a romantic comedy movie about meeting the right person at the wrong time. Unfortunately, it makes couples who are about to be married re-think the idea.

I recommend this movie to women with soft hearts and romantic souls.

What Women Want tries too hard, Miss Congeniality gets comedy right

By KEVIN HARTFORD
Staff Writer

I recently saw two "chick flicks," What Women Want and Miss Congeniality.

What Women Want stars Mel Gibson as New York ad executive Nick Marshall, a sexist, cigarette-smoking negligent father who can charm a woman into doing anything simply because he looks like Mel Gibson. While testing out women's products for a new ad campaign, Nick and his hair dryer take a Nestea plunge into a bathtub full of water, and Nick, naturally, is electrocuted.

But, wait! Instead of dying, as most people would have, Nick is granted a magical power that allows him to hear what women are thinking. Oddly enough, most of them are thinking about what a hot guy Gibson is.

Nick uses his newfound power to seduce Lola, played by Marisa Tomei, sabotage the career of his new boss, Darcy Maguire, played by Helen Hunt, and rebuild the damaged relationship he has with his daughter Alex, played by Ashley Johnson.

But, wait! Lola turns out to be a stalker, Darcy turns out to be the love of his life, and Alex turns out to be invulnerable to her father's psychic ways. What will Nick do?

What Women Want often makes the mistake of forgetting it's a comedy and tries to be a drama. This strategy never, ever works in a movie that's supposed to be a "romantic comedy."

Tomei, as Lola, and Mark Feuerstein, as Nick's best friend Morgan, are the funniest things in the movie. While Helen Hunt sucks the life out of every scene she's in. This movie was worth the ticket price, but would have been much more enjoyable if it had been a straightforward comedy instead of a comedy with "touches" of drama.

Miss Congeniality, on the other hand, never takes itself too seriously, and seeing it is, therefore, a great moviegoing experience.

Sandra Bullock stars as FBI agent Gracie Hart, who must go undercover at the fictional Miss United States pageant to stop a terrorist from bombing a bunch of beauty queens to Kingdom Come.

Bullock's Gracie is transformed from an ugly duckling to beautiful Miss New Jersey by a man named Victor Melling, played by Michael Caine. She charms a fellow FBI agent named Eric Matthews, played by Benjamin Bratt, and befriends Miss Rhode Island, played by Heather Burns, who answers the pageant question, "What would you describe as the perfect date?" with "April 25. It's not too hot. It's not too cold. All you need is a light jacket."

It's hard not to like Bullock – she's charming, beautiful and incredibly funny – but it's hard to like some of the movies she's starred in. Miss Congeniality is one of her best movies in years, and it's proven by the fact that it's her first film to gross $100 million since A Time to Kill, in 1996.

Beauty pageant movies are all the same, and while nothing in Miss Congeniality could be called truly original (except for the lederhosen-clad Bullock playing musical wine glasses), nothing in it seems clichéd.

On the other hand, almost everything in What Women Want seems clichéd. Try not to retch with disgust when Gibson's daughter tries on different prom dresses at a store while Gibson sits in a chair and makes funny faces to show his approval and disapproval.

THROUGH THE HOOP

Knights win back to back games in Sault

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

It was showtime in Sault St. Marie.

The Niagara Knights men's basketball won a doubleheader against Sault College, of Sault St. Marie last week.

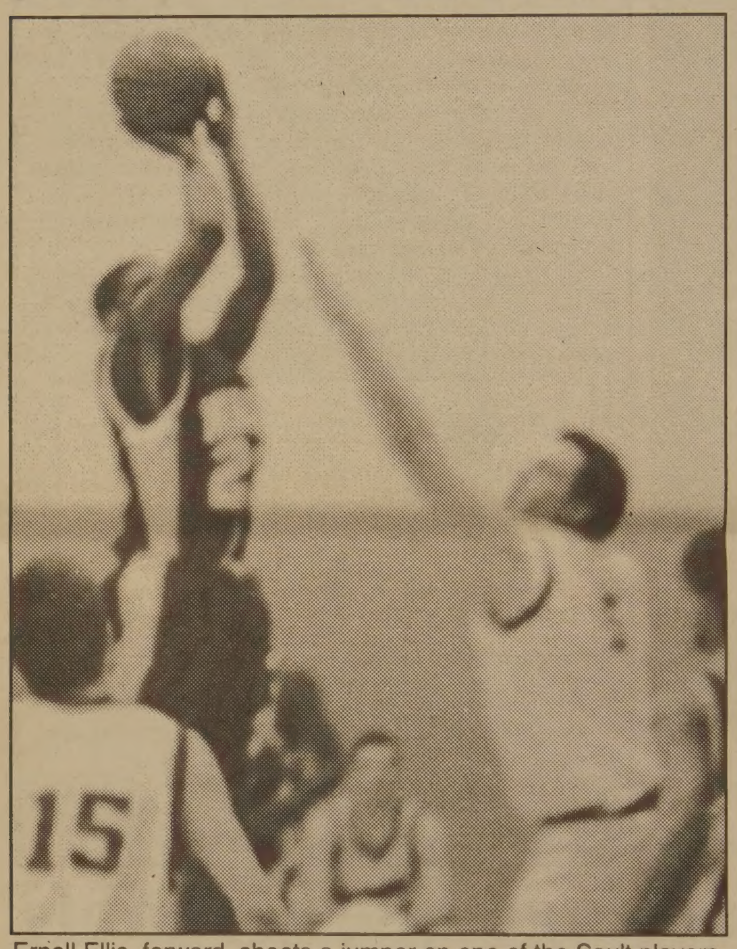
With the two wins, the Knights have moved to a record of six wins and two defeats, remaining in second place with four games left on the schedule.

The Knights dominated Sault College 90-77 in the first game on Feb. 2 and 95-78 in the second game Feb. 3.

This was the first time this season both teams met and the last.

Ernell Ellis led the Knights in the first game with 21 points. Haldon Hutchinson scored a game high in the second game with 20 points. Forward Ellis says the team still needs to work on a few things. "We need to still work on setting things up on offense." Hutchinson, the team's captain, says, "We need to pick it up on defense, good defense creates good offense."

It was a good weekend for Niagara, coming off a heartbreaking loss to London's Fanshawe College. It showed character that the men's basketball team could come back and win back-to-back games against the same team on the road. The Knights played consistent offensively, but slipped a little on defense, but it's "a great way" to open up a five-game road trip.



Ernell Ellis, forward, shoots a jumper on one of the Sault players.
Photo by Aaron Wilson

Aaron Paisley, forward, drives to the hoop looking for someone to pass to in the first game.
Photo by Aaron Wilson

Edson Jones, a point guard, says, "losing to Fanshawe . . . we were pretty depressed, this gets our confidence back."

Niagara centre Matt Roberts didn't make the trip with the team because of prior commitments, but LeVar Morgan filled in well as a starter. Morgan scored 14 points in the first game.

Morgan says the Knights were focused better in the second game, but, "We let them set their plays, and our goal was not to let that happen."

On the injury front Aaron Paisely says he is 100 per cent recovered from his ankle sprang. This will prove to be good for the final games and the playoffs, as the knights are all healthy.

Every player on Niagara contributed in the two games with strong games from rookies Landen Walsh, guard, Kyle Young, forward, and Stephen Rideout, guard. Landen played well substituting at the point. Kyle Young electrified the Sault fans with a breakaway slam in the first game.

Rideout ended up with nine points in the second game, all in the first half.

Rideout says the team played "aggressive defensively, especially pressing the guards, it caused a lot of turnovers."

Coach Ralph Nero says, "Our transition game was a little too much for them, especially our three-quarter court pressure defense."

Niagara's next three games are on the road against Sarnia's Lambton College on Feb. 9, Windsor's St. Clair College on Feb. 10, and against Hamilton's Mohawk College on Feb. 13.

Niagara's next home game is Saturday, Feb. 17 against St. Clair College at 2 p.m.

Fan appreciation night coming to fans

$ 1 hotdogs, free entry to varsity home games. Come out Feb. 16, 17

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

Get ready Niagara Knights' fans it is Fan Appreciation Day.

Ray Sarkis, co-ordinator of the athletic department, has designated next week for the fans. On Tuesday, Feb. 13 Niagara College will be sending fans on a bus to Redeemer College in Ancaster to cheer on the men's and women's volleyball teams.

If fans are interested in going to Redeemer they can call the Niagara College athletic office at the Glendale campus, ext. 4177, the Welland campus athletic department at ext. 7583 or go to the Welland athletic office in the Mackenzie building Room M4 and sign up as soon as possible.

On Feb. 16 and 17, at the Mackenzie building, there's free admission to the games for everyone. Hotdogs will be sold for $1 each.

On the Friday, the volleyball teams play. The women take to the court at 6 p.m. and the men play at 8 p.m., all against Mohawk College, of Hamilton. At these games, the cash giveaway qualifiers' competition will see three lucky finalists serving in an attempt to win $25,000.

On the Saturday, the men's basketball team plays St. Clair College, of Windsor, at 2 p.m.

During that day's basketball game, there will be three more qualifiers trying to win a car. What they have to do to win isn't being released by competition organizers.

The athletic department is providing free bus rides to the games for students at the Maid of the Mist Centre in Niagara Falls, and the Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

At the Maid of the Mist Centre, interested students should sign up at the Student Administrative Council office as soon as possible. At the Glendale campus, you sign up at the Frank Conrad residence or the athletic office in Room W003.

Knights lose to Seneca

By AARON WILSON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights women's basketball team is 1-1 on their two-game road trip last week.

Niagara played a good game against Seneca College, of North York, but lost 58-52. The Knights have fallen to 4-11 with this loss.

Jana Douglas, forward, led the Knights in scoring with 16 points, and Carrie Stratford netted 10 points. Stratford played an excellent game, but fouled out with four minutes to go.

Coach Georgie Groat says she thought the team played well, but the team wasn't as deep as she would have liked. "We only had eight players for this game, if we had more I think we would have won."

The Knights defeated St. Lawrence College, of Kingston, on Feb. 2 60-48 to notch their fourth win. It was a good way to open up a road trip.

Stratford led the way this time sinking 21 points, and Douglas scored 19 points.

Coach Groat says the team played "excellent."

"Everyone got to play and played well. We had excellent discipline, and executed on offense. We had an all around good game."

The Knights still have a playoff chance, but they must win all of their remaining season games, and hope Georgian College, of Barrie, loses at least two of their remaining games.

The Knights will play an exhibition game against Keuka College, of New York State, on Feb. 10 at 2 p.m., then it's on the road as the Knights play a crucial game against Mohawk College, of Hamilton, on Feb. 13.

SPORTS

Women's volleyball team closer to playoff berth

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

Last weekend, the Niagara Knights women's volleyball team edged closer to a playoff berth, with two victories over the Sault Cougars, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont.

On Friday, Feb. 2, the Knights convincingly defeated the Cougars in three straight games. The scores were 25-16, 25-21 and 25-19. The match began at 9 p.m., which is an unusually late start for the Knights. The team was passing the ball "really well" and they only had five service errors, says Carolyn Welden, athlete adviser. The minimizing of mental errors, such as serves not making it over the net, were crucial to Niagara's success over the weekend. "It was very controlled volleyball," says Welden. Leading the way for Niagara's offence was power-hitter Ginni Llord, who finished with 13 kills.

As the season progresses, the Knights have adapted to playing as a team. "The girls really like each other. On and off the court," says Welden.

The second weekend match was on Saturday. Similar to Friday's performance, Niagara routed their opponents, winning three out of four games. The scores were 26-24, 19-25, 25-13 and 26-16. Middles Thais Aun and Nicole Carleton-Burnham were bright spots in Niagara's triumph. "(They) played really well," says Welden. Offensively, Aun and Llord contributed with seven kills each. Once again, the Knights' mental errors were few and far between. "Whoever does the fewest errors controls the match."

The two wins improve Niagara's record to 6-4, with four matches left in the regular season. The Knights' scheduled practice on Sunday was cancelled, since the team did not arrive until early that morning. Although Welden's squad has another three games to play on the road, they don't appear to be bothered by the continual travel. "They seem to be challenged by it," says Welden.

Now that the regional and provincial playoffs are just around the corner, it's time to update fans on how the playoffs work. The top two teams in each region (East, Central and West), receive a bye to the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association Championships, at Centennial College in Scarborough, Ont. Since the West Region has the largest number of teams, the third and fourth place teams make the regional playoffs. The third place teams in the East and Central Regions also get the opportunity to compete in the playoffs. No. 3 in the West will play No. 3 in the East. No. 4 in the West battles No. 3 in the Central region. Both winners of the regional playoffs move on to the provincial championships, which take place Feb. 22 to 24.

A similar scenario happens with the men's volleyball regions as well. The eight best college teams in Ontario will be competing against each other for a berth in the nationals.

Niagara's volleyball teams will travel to Windsor this weekend, to face St. Clair College.

Men's volleyball team earns spot in OCAA championships

By JOËL D. HERRINGTON
Staff Writer

The Niagara Knights men's volleyball team is going to the Ontario Colleges Athletic Association (OCAA) championship and won't have to play a single regional playoff game.

The country's third best college volleyball team has improved to 12-0, following a tough victory over the visiting Ancaster Redeemer Royals last Tuesday. The Knights hosted a four-game match, in which their confidence, maturity and determination were challenged. Head coach Blair Cudmore says it was just "a tougher day at the office."

Middle Justin Ross smashes it down against Redeemer.
Photo by Joël D. Herrington

The second-place Royals, of Ancaster, Ont., showed spirit and enthusiasm on the court. "They played well," says setter/power Cory Lahey. After the Knights hammered Redeemer in the first game 25-16, the Royals bounced back with a quick 25-14 win in game two. Niagara won the third game 25-19 and squeezed out a 26-24 triumph in the fourth. "I think they passed really well tonight. You really have to give a lot of credit to them," says Lahey.

The final two games were tight, as each team continued to trade points. With the combination of edgy defence from Niagara and quality passing by Redeemer, the results were closer than expected. Lahey says the Royals just wanted to compete and upset the No. 3 team in Canada. "We had fun and made it exciting for the fans anyway."

In regard to the fans, they were surprisingly supportive. A crowd of about 65 people gathered to watch their undefeated Knights. Rightside Graeme Gaunt led Niagara's offence with an explosive 20 points. The second-year veteran is averaging 4.8 points per game, battling with Mohawk's George Macut for first place in the West Region. "Graeme is really stepping it up now," says Lahey. "You can tell he's our go to guy."

The Knights continued to spread their offensive attack, as Lahey and captain Josh Gunnell both finished with 14 points. Spreading the offence "works well," says Lahey. "We try to use our middles as an advantage. I think the middles on the other teams in the league are a little weaker."

Bill Lang smacks it over the net as Brad Harrietha looks on.
Photo by Joël D. Herrington

Middles Justin Ross, Jason Reimer and Andrew Châtel combined for 14 points.

Although Cudmore and his team don't need to make excuses for the one loss, there were a few aspects that worked against them. Lahey says the team did a " rough job" on defence. Cudmore says their blocking was done "poorly." Because of a difficult practice the night before, the team looked a "little slow," says Cudmore.

At the beginning of the year, Lahey was sidelined because of an operation he had on his knee. The 6' 4" Chatham, Ont., native says he feels 100 per cent healthy. His soft passing touch and powerful smash have clearly shown during the past few matches. "I'm pretty confident with the rest of the season."

As a result of their record, the Knights received a bye to the OCAA championships at Seneca College in North York, Ont. The top two teams in each region (East, Central, West) automatically clinch a spot in the provincial championship. "That's a nice feeling," says Lahey, adding the bye allows the team to skip the regional playoffs and focus on the provincials.

The next home game for the Knights will be on Friday, Feb. 16, at 8 p.m., against the Mohawk Mountaineers, of Hamilton.

OCAA Curling West Regionals hosted by Niagara College

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

For all those curling fans or just regular sports fans out there, listen: This is your heads up!

On Wednesday, Feb. 7, the Ontario Colleges Athletics Association (OCAA) Curling West Regional got under way.

Niagara College's men's and women's curling teams will go head-to-head with four other Ontario colleges: Georgian College, in Barrie, Ont., Mohawk College, in Hamilton, Ont., Sault Ste. Marie College, in Sault Ste. Marie, Ont., and Seneca College in North York.

The tournament is hosted by Niagara College at the Welland Curling Club, 497 King St., Welland, and is expected to bring in some top quality curlers from around the region.

The men's and women's teams will be competing in separate events, but the events will be held at the same time on different ice pads.

Draw play began at 9:15 a.m. on Wednesday. The second draw began at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. on Thursday and the third draw occurred today, Friday, at noon. If a tiebreaker is needed, it will begin at 4 p.m.

The top finishers will be advancing to the OCAA Championships, which are being held at Sir Sandford Fleming, in Peterborough, the weekend of March 8 to 11.

Men's indoor soccer coach 'not pleased' with placing in tournament

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's men's indoor soccer team won one but lost two games in the Conestoga Annual Alumni Tournament held the weekend of Feb. 3 and 4 in Kitchener.

Coach Frank DeChellis said he was "not pleased" with his team's placing and, for their first time out, he had "hoped for a better result," but they did "show a lot promise."

"The players could've played better, but we do hope they do better this weekend. The play of our forwards is key in playing soccer, but our defence and goaltending were right on."

"I can take a loss — that isn't a problem, especially when the team has played their best and given it their all — but I can't take a loss when a team stops trying, especially when they know they can play better," he said.

"Our goaltending and defence are good enough to win, and our forwards are getting there."

DeChellis said the guys have set a standard for themselves and now they have to work on returning to that level.

He added, "What you see in a game you don't see in practice. They are a great bunch of kids who are working hard, and they know what they missed and they know how they have to play (this) weekend.

"We have been practicing hard and I'm proud of the progress the guys have made and I think we're gonna do well this weekend and then at regionals."

"You can't be concerned with wins and losses. You have to play hard and try hard, and then the wins will come. I hope they do better for their sake, which is why they play. I have confidence we will do very well this weekend."

"The guys aren't only trying to win, but also fighting for a more active role in the team," he added.

Last year's team was undefeated at the George Brown Invitational in Toronto. At Conestoga, this year, the team was seven minutes away from winning. Then, DeChellis said, "The guys had a lapse."

Indoor soccer has five-on-five play versus the 11-on-11 of outdoor soccer. The rules, however, are the same regarding no hands and out of bounds. Tactically, the indoor game is similar to basketball and hockey. High scores are a characteristic of indoor soccer.

DeChellis said, "Indoor soccer requires a total soccer player . . . The game is more than just putting the ball into the net."

F.Y.I.

Coach 'happy' with team's performance

By BROOKE DREDGE
Staff Writer

Niagara College's women's indoor soccer team competed at the Conestoga Annual Alumni Tournament the weekend of Feb. 3 and 4 with one win and three losses.

Coach Louie DiLorenzo said he was "very proud" of the team and that for their first game he felt they had played pretty well.

"All of the games were close scoring-wise, but we were playing mostly club teams versus colleges' and universities' teams, but I was happy with the team's performance," DiLorenzo said.

He added that with each game the women played he saw team improvements. As the tournament went on, the women began to gain some confidence.

"The girls were also happy with their performance considering a lot had never played indoor soccer before. They played well and gave it their all, and that's all I ask for," DiLorenzo said.

Before the team goes to its next tournament, on Feb. 10 at George Brown College in Toronto, DiLorenzo and assistant coach Wally Bohunicky want to work on the team's offensive playing.

"Our offensive playing was one factor we lacked at Conestoga due to being short offensive players, but I do hope we can nail it before we go to George Brown," said DiLorenzo. "We need to work on passing the ball around and shooting so we can get some goals."

Both coaches agreed that their best player at the Conestoga tournament was their goalie, Dana MacDonald, 22, a student in the Correctional Worker program, as well as Alexie Fulop, 20.

"One major factor we are trying to develop in the girls is their confidence to shoot, and we are also trying to familiarize them with the way indoor soccer is played," Bohunicky said.

"The facilities at Conestoga were a major disadvantage for the girls. Everything around them was an opposing factor in how they played, and just the fact they were not used to the sort of playing field they were on.

"We should do much better at George Brown. Not only have we been practicing hard, as well, we are playing on an arena field, which is what we are used to practicing on. There is nothing against us in this tournament, and I have high hopes the girls will do very well," Bohunicky said.

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Library technician retires

After 27 years at Niagara, Boyd is leaving, but will 'miss the people'

By TARA FORD
Staff Writer

Charlotte Boyd, 49, has retired from the Learning Resource Centre at Niagara College's Glendale campus in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Boyd, whose last day was Jan. 25, was a library technician for 27 years. She says she is happy to be leaving because "it's moving on," but she's sad because she will "miss the people and the students."

After working full time with her co-workers for so long, Boyd says one thing she will miss most about them is that they could "joke and laugh with one another and still work together."

She says she's sure she'll get a chance to see her co-workers again, probably through visits to the college.

Boyd has a new job with the District School Board of Niagara. She will be assisting in the automation of school libraries, an opportunity that will help keep her "skills up."

Boyd says in her new post she'll get about 15 hours a week just to "get out of the house."

Charlotte Boyd is doing her librarian duties on her last day in the Learning Resource Centre at the Glendale campus.

Photo by Tara Ford

Students raise money for charity

By HILARY TAYLOR
Staff Writer

February and March are designated as fund-raising months for the second-year Human Relations program students.

Program professor Nancy Ostrander says fund-raising is part of the curriculum for the students. Last term, she says, they raised more than $1,000 for the United Way.

Ostrander says the second-year students decide which charity they will assist. Working in groups, they organize the fund-raising events.

"The teachers are facilitators. They only help give the students the tools and the on-going support they need. The students organize everything themselves," says Bev Davies, the program co-ordinator.

A group of Human Relations program students will be selling Valentine's Day cards outside the library at the Welland campus.

Cards were sold yesterday and will be sold on Wednesday, Feb. 14, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. They may be purchased for $1 each with proceeds going to support the local Humane Society.

Banner ads $50 at www.niagara-news.com

A Fine Design

Canadians celebrate flying of Maple Leaf

By CHRISTINE CHALONER
Staff Writer

After receiving candy and roses for Valentine's Day on Feb. 14, Canadians need to remember to celebrate the next day too.

Feb. 15 marks the sixth anniversary of Canada's Flag Day, which commemorates the first time the maple leaf was raised over Parliament Hill.

Jean Chrétien, prime minister, made a speech on Feb. 15, 1996, about Flag Day, saying, "Our flag thus honours Canadians of all origins who, through their courage and determination, have helped to build and are continuing to build our great country, a dynamic country that is open to the future."

Using information centres such as Canadian Heritage, citizens can find the information that helped shape Canada into what it is today.

Joan O'Malley, then 20, sewed Canada's first flag in 1964. At the stroke of noon on Feb. 15, 1965, the flag was raised in Ottawa replacing the Red Ensign, a flag bearing the Union Jack and the royal arms of Canada.

The design for Canada's flag took a lot of work and George Stanley, a professor at Royal Military College, in Kingston, Ont., suggested a red and white single maple leaf.

The decision was made, making Canada the only country in the world with a maple leaf on its flag.

John Matheson, member of Parliament, worked to perfect the design, choosing the sugar maple leaf as the model for the flag's leaf.

Lester B. Pearson, prime minister from 1963 to 1968, introduced many things like the Canada Pension Plan, Universal Health Care and the new flag. If it weren't for Pearson's persistence perhaps Canada wouldn't have had a new flag.

Before 1965, the first flag was the St. George's Cross, an English flag of the 15th century, carried by John Cabot when he reached the East Coast of Canada in 1497.

The fleur-de-lis was a symbol of French sovereignty in Canada from 1534 to 1760, when Canada was given to the United Kingdom.

The Royal Union flag, also referred to as the Union Jack, was first flown over Canada in 1621. Its appearance did change after the Act of Union between Great Britain and Ireland in 1801, incorporating the diagonal Cross of St. Patrick with England's St. George's Cross and Scotland's Cross of St. Andrew.

The Canadian Red Ensign, was first used in 1870 and later adopted to identify Canadian ships overseas. In 1924, the Canadian Red Ensign was approved and used to identify all government buildings.

The search for a new Canadian flag started in 1925 when a committee of the Privy Council began to research possible designs for a national flag. However, the work of the committee was never completed.

Later, in 1946, a select parliamentary committee was appointed with a similar mandate and ended up receiving more than 2,600 submissions. The parliament of Canada never voted on the new flag though.

Early in 1964, Pearson told the House of Commons that the government wished to adopt a distinctive national flag.

In October 1964, after eliminating various proposals, the committee was left with three possible designs — a Red Ensign with the Fleur-de-lis and the Union Jack; a design incorporating three red maple leaves; and a red flag with a single, stylized red maple leaf on a white square.

Stanley's design was based on a strong sense of Canadian history. The combination of white and red first appeared in the General Service Medal issued by Queen Victoria. King George V then proclaimed red and white Canada's national colours in 1921. Three years earlier, Major General Sir Eugene Fiset had recommended that Canada's emblem be the single red maple leaf on a white field — the emblem worn by all Canadian Olympic athletes since 1904.

The committee eventually decided to recommend the single-leaf design, bringing Canada her sixth and most distinctive flag.

New co-ordinator started career in journalism

By SCOTT THOMSON
Staff Writer

"Working. I think that makes us human."

That comment explains Greg Smith, 36, the new co-ordinator of the Art and Design Fundamentals — Graphic Design Production program of Niagara College.

Smith, in his second year of teaching here, took over from the retired Ken Cosgrove at the beginning of this semester.

He says he took the position because he "doesn't feel too removed from his students." Age played a role in his decision.

"I wanted the tradition, however it exists here, to continue," he says, adding he "hopes to provide a better overall education in all fields" with the help of his staff.

Smith, who once studied journalism-print at Sheridan College, in Oakville, Ont., says it was journalism that got him into visual arts. Through journalism he became an editor of a publishing firm, thus opening up the graphic side of the industry to him.

"I wanted to write, and then I saw the process. I wanted to design for the writing. It brought me full circle."

Smith, who is married, still continues his writing at home.

"I've got a novel on the go. Of course, everybody does, but this one I don't hate yet," Smith says, explaining his genre is "pure fiction."

He says his favourite novelist is George Bernard Shaw because Shaw "was right and the rest of the 20th century was wrong." Smith, who has his own printing press at home, plans to continue his writing "later in life." He says if his novel isn't published he can, at least, produce it at home and market it that way.

Describing himself as "confused yet trying," he says he is inspired by music, literature, art and "really good design."

Currently, his favourite band is The JayHawks, but he also likes Bob Dylan, the Clash and even finds himself enjoying opera and classical music.

"The Clash was one of those epiphany moments. I heard (the song) *London Calling* when I was a kid and was like wow."

He says enjoys his work.

"If it isn't fun, don't do it. If something doesn't bring you delight or joy, not just at a superficial level, then you probably shouldn't be doing it."

Greg Smith, left, and Joe Masheretti talking about responsibilities of being a new co-ordinator.
Photo by Scott Thomson

College guides high schools

By CALUM McNEIL
Staff Writer

Niagara College hosted its first advisory forum for the region's high school principals Jan. 30 at the Maid of the Mist Centre.

"The purpose of the forum was to make sure the high schools in Niagara understood the new programs and changes at the college. We have introduced new technology and we wanted the principals and guidance counsellors to know this," says Niagara College President Dan Patterson.

"We had a great turn-out. Forty-three people came and there were only three cancellations. (Vice-president academic) Bonnie Rose did a great job of presenting the new programs and additions to the college. It was an interesting cross-section. Ridley College attended, and so did the public and Catholic schools," says Patterson, terming the feedback as "extremely positive."

Darrel Neufeld, the president's executive assistant, says, "The Niagara region provides 65 per cent of our college's students."

"The more we can help them give their students information about the college, the better it is for us," says Neufeld.

"The high school curriculum is going through tremendous change. It is important for the college to understand the changes being made in high schools so students can make a smooth transition to college. We tell them our needs and they tell us theirs."

Rose says she learned a lot about secondary schools, in particular the new curricula and the double cohort of students when the final OAC grade of high school is phased out.

"The principals expressed a lot of interest in our technology programs, and were interested in our program agreements with Brock University and other universities," says Rose.

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THE FINAL WORD

HTZ FM personality rocking for 15 years

By SCOTT ROSTS
Staff Writer

It's been 15 years since he started there, but on-air personality Jack Peets is still rocking the airwaves on 97.7 CHTZ FM in St. Catharines.

Peets, 42, of St. Catharines, has worked at the St. Catharines station, better known as HTZ FM, since *Start Me Up* by the Rolling Stones played when the station came on the air 15 years ago. He is a graduate of Niagara College's Broadcasting — Radio, Television, Film (BRTF) program.

Peets' interest in radio began during his high school years at St. Catharines Collegiate and Beamsville District Secondary School in Beamsville, Ont. His involvement in high school helped prepare him for the future.

"I loved the radio. I always loved pretending to be a disc jockey. To prepare myself I used to host dances in high school. I also did morning announcements," Peets says.

When it came to choosing where he wanted to go for post-secondary education, Peets chose to come to Niagara in 1977.

"I had heard good things about the program there. I had a few friends in it. It was close to home. I pretty much decided it was the place for me."

Peets says he went into the program with a goal and achieved it about a month into the program.

"To get a job — I guess that is everyone's goal. I was fortunate enough to get a part-time job that fall."

Peets got an operating job for CHSC FM in St. Catharines. He did part-time hosting of a show on Brock University's radio station in St. Catharines.

At the end of his first year at Niagara, Peets got his first on-air job at CHOW FM. He was on the air during the evening shift.

In 1980, after two years at CHOW, Peets moved to CHSC AM. It was there he met his wife of 15 years, Laurie. Laurie does the morning show for 610 CKTB AM, which broadcasts out of the same building as HTZ FM. They have one daughter, Vivian, who is 11.

In 1983, Peets was offered "a better job and better shift" at CBJK in London. He took the job but says, "it didn't pan out."

He was offered his old job at CHSC AM, and spent the next few years there until HTZ FM came on the air in 1986.

Peets says he is the only original personality who has been there for the full 15 years. He's spent the "vast majority" of his time doing the mid-day shift.

"It's been 15 really good years. I've had a lot of fun along the way."

Although he's been working at HTZ FM for 15 years, Peets says that doesn't mean he feels secure about his job.

"You're always looking over your shoulder in this business," he says.

Outside of radio Peets keeps busy. He has his own restaurant show on Cogeco Cable called Chef's Table. He helps host the Grape and Wine Festival parade for ONtv, does TV voiceovers and does "a lot" of event hosting.

"It's part of the job really."

Peets' interests outside of work include hanging out at home, travelling and playing golf.

"Well, golf is right at the top of the list. I'm the media champion of golf in Niagara."

Peets plays in a media tournament that he says he has won four of the last six years. He says if he couldn't be in broadcasting, he'd want to play on the golf circuit.

When it comes to musical taste, Peets' favourite songs include *Spinning Wheel* by Blood, Sweat and Tears, *If I Had A Million Dollars* by Barenaked Ladies and "certainly *The Jack* by AC/DC." His favourite bands are Boston, Tragically Hip and Barenaked Ladies.

"I play this rock `n` roll and I love it, but I certainly like other forms too," he says.

Some of Peets' more memorable interviews include Steve Smith, who plays Red Green, Ron MacLean, host of Hockey Night in Canada, and Eric Idle of Monty Python fame.

Peets says he hasn't had any low points during his time in the business, but "had a scare" when the threat of a strike at the station loomed last year.

His pet peeves include "sometimes dealing with people on the phone. You have to be nice, but there are times you have to bite your tongue and deal with it.

" I like the fact that no one bothers me while I'm in here on the air. I like that I get paid to have fun," he says, referring to the good points of his job.

If he could make one change to his job, Peets says it would be the pay.

"More money. I do OK, but like most people I wish I got paid more."

Peets says you have to be determined to be in radio, but Niagara's BRTF program was a good start.

"It got my foot in the door. It was very useful. If I hadn't gotten in there, I might not have gotten my job. If you really want it though, you'll find a way to get it. This is a business where you really have to want it. If you don't really want it, then find something else."

He says his love of music and doing bits and jokes was why he "really wanted it."

BRTF grad Jack Peets hosts the mid-day show on 97.7 CHTZ FM in St. Catharines.
Photo by Scott Rosts

"I can remember that was the attraction. The idea of getting to play tunes and have fun and goof around and get paid for it."

Peets says he doesn't think he has any celebrity status, even though he does his radio work, TV show and has his own website at www.jackpeets.com.

"I'd like to think of myself as an ordinary guy doing an out-of-the-ordinary job. I don't think of myself as a celebrity. That's the way you have to treat it. You have to keep your feet on the ground."

He says he does "occasionally" get recognized in public. "It's kind of embarrassing sometimes, because you think you're just and ordinary guy. It's like, I want to be famous, but I want to be anonymous."

As for the future, Peets says he would like to move a little more into TV, doing hosting and entertainment-based jobs.

"I'd kind of like to make a move to do TV. I'd like to do more. I don't know whether I'd want to get out of radio entirely though."

Peets can be heard weekdays between 10 a.m and 2 p.m. He can also be heard sometimes on the weekend. Besides the music and talk, Peets has contests including the daily You Don't Know Jack, a radio version of the board game. He does a daily Web report called Slash Jack and offers listeners the chance to do some hosting around noon, with the Jack Snack.

Asked why people should tune into HTZ FM during the mid-day show, Peets' answer is simple: "It's the only time I'm on the air."

Fight for justice continues over daughter's death

By LAURA T. RICCIUTO
Staff Writer

The mother of an employee who was killed following a work-related explosion, on Nov. 8, 1999 at Esquire Canada Inc., will have to wait months before she sees a judicial decision in court cases against the firm.

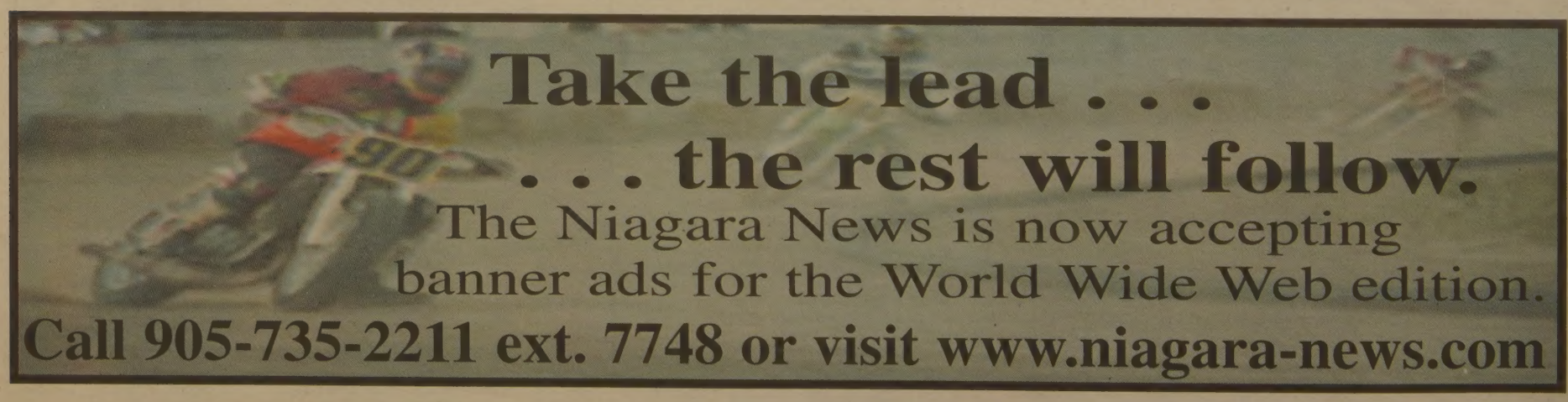
Joanne Stubbins, a retired 32-year employee of Niagara College's Print Centre at the Welland campus, is continuing her fight with the justice system as federal and provincial charges against Esquire, which employed her daughter at the time of her death, have been adjourned again.

Robyn Lafleur, 37, was caught in an explosion at the Port Robinson factory that manufactures caps for toy guns. Ten days following the incident Lafleur died of complication.

On Feb. 1 the Crown in the provincial charges against Esquire Canada Inc. elected to have the case heard before a provincial court judge, as the charging document was sent to the wrong court.

Provincial trial has been adjourned to Feb. 27, at 9 a.m. in St. Catharines.

On Feb. 2 the federal trial had been held put on hold as there was uncertainty over whether the company had been "formally charged yet."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